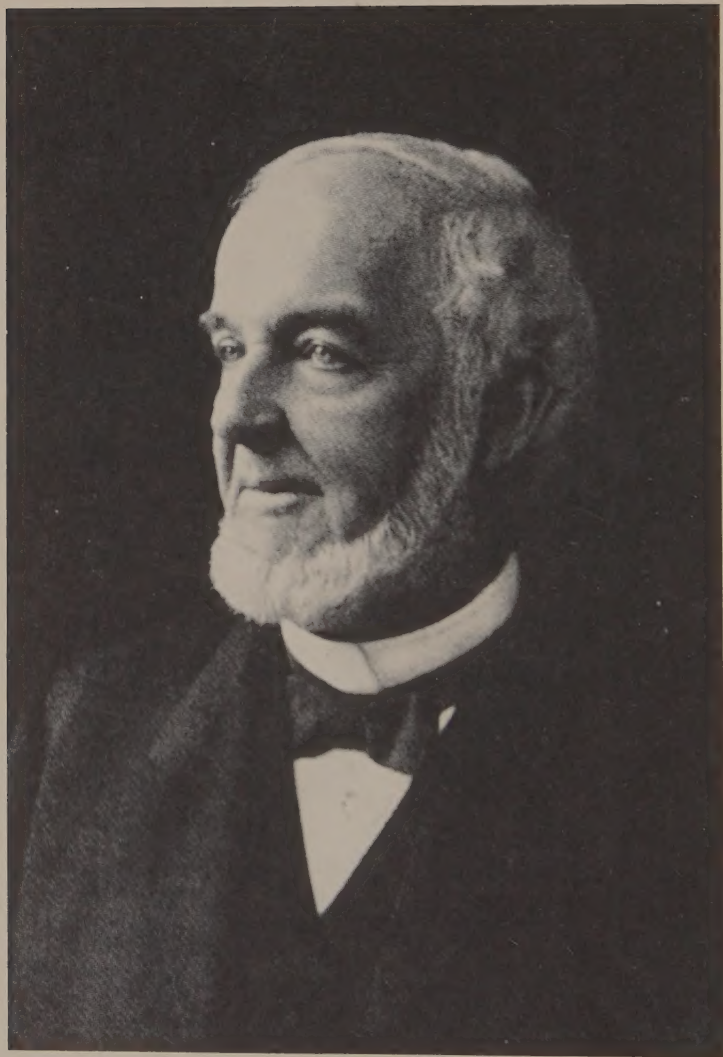


**THE STORY
OF MOHONK**



ALBERT K. SMILEY

THE STORY OF MOHONK

BY
FREDERICK E. PARTINGTON



NINETEEN HUNDRED ELEVEN



ELIZA P. SMILEY

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

Almost thirty years have passed since new writing for the second edition of *The Story of Mohonk* was completed, though a third edition with only minor changes was published some ten years ago.

A third part, covering the years from 1930 to 1960, with an explanatory note regarding the nature of the text, in a foreword, is included in this fourth edition.

Also, with the hope that a foundation and point of departure for the main story of Mohonk under Smiley ownership might make this account more meaningful, a "preamble" telling very briefly some bits of earlier history has been included at the beginning of the book.

As noted in the new text, extensive additions have been made to the "Chronology" in the back of the volume, in order that the writing itself might be shorter, and that there might be more ready reference to this factual material.

PREFACE

Our readers may note that both further historical research and the "evolution" in methods of operation have created apparent inconsistencies in a small number of minor facts between parts one and two, and the new writing. No attempt has been made to revise the former writing as previously published, since the points in question do not have a major influence upon our story.

The lists of local Flora and Fauna which appeared in the back of the last edition have been omitted in order that the very acceptable size and format of the previous printings might be kept as nearly as possible the same. These lists will, we trust, be published as separate material for the use of local naturalists.

We hope this further account of Mohonk's doings will interest many friends. We assure our readers that any omissions they may notice are in the interest of a *briefer*, if not a *simpler*, chronicle.

A. K. S., JR.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y.

April, 1961

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

IN 1932 a second edition of *The Story of Mobonk* was published, bringing up to date the original story written by Frederick E. Partington in 1911.

Since so short a time has now elapsed since the last printing of the book, no attempt has been made in the present edition to add to the historical material in the text. However, it is felt that this new printing may be termed a "Third Edition" because the chronology and flora and fauna lists at the back of the book have been thoroughly revised. These sources of interesting factual information have thus been made much more complete than in the previous edition.

Other changes consist mainly of footnotes which aim to clarify a few points in Mr. Partington's story, as well as some minor changes in the second edition.

Since the supply of these books has been exhausted, we are confident that this new printing

PREFACE

will be welcome and trust it will fill the need of those wishing to learn about Mohonk's story until a suitable time for recounting a new cycle of our history may have arisen.

A. K. S., JR.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y.

January, 1950

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IT is now more than twenty years since the first printing of this book. Since that edition is now exhausted and Mohonk, meanwhile, has not stood still, there appears to be a strong desire for the continuation of the Story of Mohonk.

Frederick E. Partington had hoped to re-write his book, relating the story up to the present time. His regrettable death in 1924 occurred before he could do so, necessitating the plan to re-publish his little book as he wrote it, to which is added a second part with the subsequent story. It is hoped that the present volume may be of value in preserving the later history and especially that reprinting Mr. Partington's delightful words may revive cherished memories of the olden time among all who love Mohonk and are interested in its story.

A. K. S., JR.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y.

April, 1932

PREFACE
TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE oft-repeated inquiry as to the history of Mohonk led the publishers of this book to believe that a brief sketch of its founding and growth would be gladly welcomed and cherished by many who have expressed their love for the place by making it their summer home for many seasons.

We sincerely trust that the book will fully gratify those who have expressed their desire for such a work, and wish to assure them that it is in every respect a token of good will and affection to all who care for, or are interested in the story of Mohonk.

F. E. P.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y.
1911

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THE EARLIER HISTORY
OF THE
SHAWANGUNKS AROUND MOHONK

THE EARLIER HISTORY OF THE SHAWANGUNKS AROUND MOHONK

The first condition of the "landscape" in our mountain's history was not fire or molten lava, but water. Mud, and later gravel, was settling to the bottom of a great inland sea. This occurred a long time before "a long time ago", some four hundred million years to be "exact". Mud, pressed and cemented into shale; gravel squeezed and "concreted" into conglomerate; rising of land masses; and sidewise pressures to add creases in the layers—all this happened at the prolonged birth of our Shawangunk Mountains.

And then the rains, and the frosts, and the glaciers came. And once higher mountains became lesser ones. And pieces of rock rode away on the ice. And cliff edges cracked where the shale was a poor foundation. There were talus piles and crevices. Such an unusual form of erosion created a rock climbers' paradise long before the days when

men had sufficient leisure for the sport of climbing.

These high barriers may have held back the mastodons which followed after the glaciers to our valleys. It is doubtful that they even tried to clamber over the rocky slopes of Eagle Cliff, with so much good forage further down. Precariously lodged boulders, left by the retreating glacier, must have been plentiful in those days and a mastodon could not leap aside quickly out of the rolling rock's path.

Before the white man appeared, the Indians had plenty of territory in the valleys, though their connecting trails led across the Shawangunks, and they must have known of the high lakes, and the points from which the view was the best. In earlier days the Delaware tribe known as the Lenape were in possession of the territory, but this gradually became a borderland area. Just south of New Paltz, along the Wallkill, there is evidence of an Indian camp site, where mingling of cultures indicates that Delawares here

came to trade with braves from the Five Nations.

Later the increasing strength of the Iroquois league enabled them to subdue the Lenape and both conqueror and conquered lived together in these parts. Especially after the white settlers began to infringe upon their domain, there may well have been more hunting in the mountains, and more frequent crossing by the trail which passes the "notch" at Rhododendron Swamp from the "Shawangunk" camp on the east to points in the Rondout Valley to the west.

The Dutch settlers were respectful of these mountain walls and seemed to prefer to let their imaginations rather than their eyes determine what was behind the cliffs. Even though there is no record of Rip Van Winkle doing any ten-pin rolling on the glacier-polished surfaces of the Shawangunk conglomerate, he might have visited here from the nearby Catskills to see the mysterious lake with no bottom.

Actually, Mohonk Lake was more accessible by rough trail in the early days from the Rondout

Valley to the west than it was from the eastern side. And the Dutch were telling the "no bottom" story as early as 1837 when the artist Daniel Huntington first visited here. He came by canal boat from Kingston to Alligerville, in order to make some pictures to publicize the scenery for the Ontario and Western Railroad. The blacksmith at Alligerville advised a hike to the high hill, but also recommended extreme caution because if he fell into that black water from the old raft he would come out at the other end of the world!

Daniel Huntington lived to tell the tale, and to have it recorded first hand when he was a regular Mohonk guest many years later. "The next winter I painted a general view of the place from recollection and it was accepted by the Academy of Design".

As time went on, the more gentle slopes of the Shawangunks were penetrated by many a wood road to make charcoal pits or hoop poles accessible, and by the "dug-ways". The latter were

a peculiar combination of roadway and wide ditch, along which large millstones, cut from the quartz conglomerate, were stone-boated to the valleys, and eventually to the Rondout canal boats, for distribution to customers in all parts of the country.

In earliest days of settlement, and continuing for over a hundred years, the Shawangunk cliffs were more boundary and landmark for people to the eastward in the Wallkill Valley, than they were points of scenic interest. Table Rock at Sky Top's point was the southwest corner of the great Paltz Patent comprising 40,000 acres, with a frontage of 12 miles on the Hudson, which was granted in 1677 by Edmund Andros, Colonial Governor of the English province of New York, to Louis DuBois and his eleven Huguenot associates. Just previously, they had bought this land from the Indians, long before William Penn had done the same in Pennsylvania. The settlement of New Paltz must be another story, but it is interesting that the patent describes the terri-

tory as "beginning from the high hills at the place called Mogonck". Some authorities claim this is the first record of the spot now known as Mohonk.

The difference in spelling of the name may not be considered significant, as there are many variations, and just as many uncertainties about the exact spot to which it was applied. Even the Indians confused the issue, perhaps purposefully to retaliate for usurpation of their lands. For example, forty-four years after the patent was granted there is this entry in the New Paltz Church records: "Joseph Hasbrouck, Reelif Eltinge (sic), and John Hardenburgh, Justices of the County of Ulster, desirous that the first station of their patent called Mogonck should be kept in remembrance, brought Ancrop, the Indian with them to the high mountain which he named Maggranapogh, at or near the foot of which is a small run of water and a swamp which he called Mogonck, and the said Indian affirms it to be the right name of the said places".

And so the affirmation of Ancrop leaves us wondering whether Mohonk was originally rock or water. At least the geologists agree with him—that *originally* it was water!

The upper reaches of the patent—the ridges sometimes called by Wallkill Valley settlers "the high hills"—and the area around the southwest corner, often called "Paltz Point", were long considered of little value. Even as late as 1800 this was the case, when Major Isaac Lefevre, famous surveyor, was running surveys in those parts for Mr. Mullenix. When Isaac reached the highest and rockiest part of the mountain along Sky Top, Mr. Mullenix said, "Go no further—leave the rest for the foxes." Thereupon Major Isaac asked Mr. Mullenix if he would give him the deed for that part for his day's work, and he replied that he would. And so he did, giving him 20 acres.

John F. Stokes, who sold to Albert Smiley the original Lake Mohonk property, never owned this 20 acres, and it was not until long after-

ward that Mr. Smiley became owner of it. Even though a road across the Shawangunk mountains, passing near what is now Mountain Rest, was built as early as 1820, the climb to Mohonk from New Paltz was considered an arduous undertaking, with records from 1858 of parties of teachers and students from the New Paltz Academy climbing up the rocks.

Mr. John F. Stokes had bought the property around the lake by this time and was beginning to build a small shanty and sell refreshments to visitors. But most of his early trade came up from the west valley, until he was able to make a rough trail to connect with the road crossing the ridge near Mountain Rest. Mr. Stokes was a practical man, who foresaw the possibilities of the lake and its unusual scenery as an attraction for visitors. It was a daring venture, and expensive, to haul the lumber from the valley to erect an inn and tavern, but he was able to do it and be ready for a grand opening on July 4, 1859.

We have on file a first hand account of this

occasion by Ralph LeFevre, former editor of "The New Paltz Independent". Part of his account follows:

"Anyone who was there will never forget that opening. I was there and have never forgotten it. There was a Kerhonksen (sic) brass band in all its glory to furnish music. There were no patriotic addresses but there were (sic) enthusiasm in plenty; for there was whiskey in plenty and there were two or three fights to make things exciting. . . ."

During the ensuing ten years, ending with the purchase by Albert and Alfred Smiley, and a radical change in policy, the Mohonk House operated mostly with local patronage from the two valleys. Following the Civil War, guests appear to have come from a somewhat wider area. Our main source of information continues to be news items or advertisements in the "New Paltz Times". It appears that part of the time John F. Stokes rented the property to another operator. Activity was not confined to the sum-

mer seasons, as there is notice of a shooting match "on the Lake Mohonk Point" on December 14, 1861. At the same time it is reported that "the ice on the lake is as smooth as glass". In 1862 we read that John F. Stokes "desires a strict observance of the Sabbath".

Then in 1864, at the beginning of the sixth season: "Mohonk or Paltz Point is fast becoming a popular summer resort for those who wish enjoyment". And the next month, in July, 1864, fire broke out on the mountain and came uncomfortably close to the hotel property. From the New Paltz editor's viewpoint "Mr. John F. Stokes has already lost \$1000 worth of bark ready for market (hemlock bark for tanning). And has all his household furniture packed, in case of danger, for removal. The fire was plainly seen from this village and was a grand sight to those who were not losers by it".

These notes give us brief insights into the early days of hotel keeping in the Shawangunk Mountains. It is little wonder that Albert Smiley had

to look beyond the blackened trunks of fire-scarred trees on his first trip to Sky Top, and visualize the place in terms of its future possibilities rather than its condition in 1869.

For local residents along the Wallkill and Rondout Valleys around Lake Mohonk, the fall of 1869 and the spring of 1870 must have been a time of shock and amazement regarding what was happening at "the Lake without any bottom". Stripping of hemlocks for tan bark ceased. Perhaps they watched Mr. Stokes haul his whole collection of whiskey barrels back down to the valley. And when a man with a smile framed by whiskers drove into their village, they might have asked a neighbor, "is that Alfred or is it Albert?"

The enterprise then started by the Smiley twins requires telling in another story.



THE STORY
OF MOHONK

Part One



THE STORY OF MOHONK

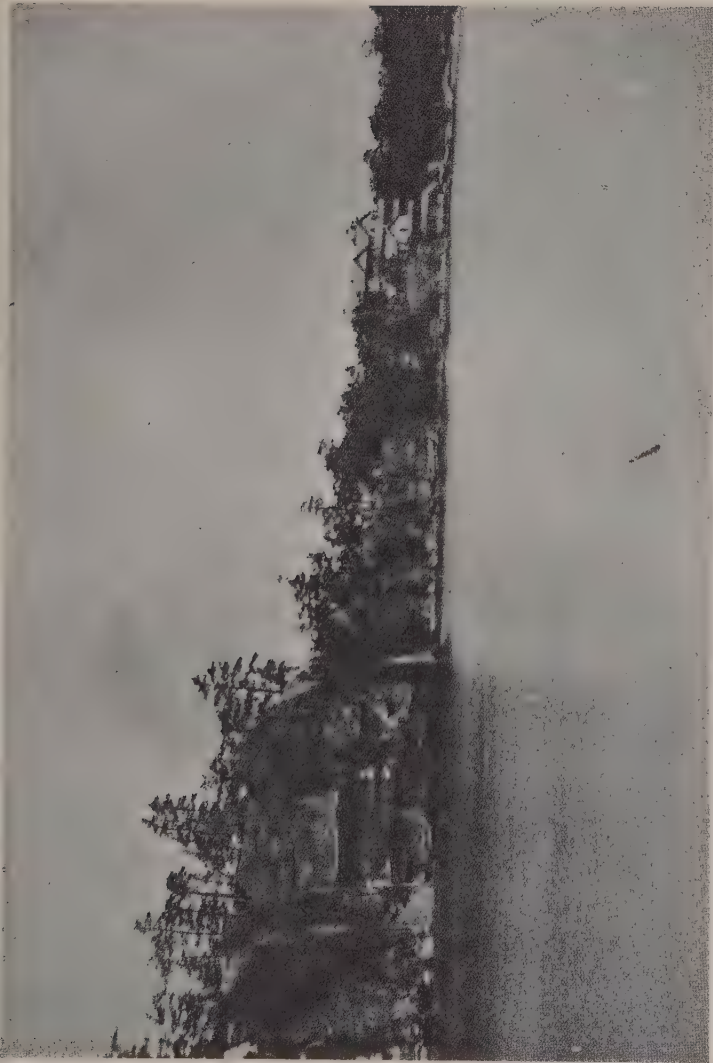
Part One

ONE day in the early summer of 1869, Alfred H. Smiley, who was then living near Poughkeepsie, proposed to spend the day at one of two places—either going by steamer down to West Point or going by carriage to a romantic lake, which, he had heard, lay hidden in the mountains west of the Wallkill Valley. What finally led him to the choice of the unknown lake is not clear, but it is interesting to speculate what the future of Lake Mohonk might have been had Mr. Smiley that morning chosen to go to West Point.

The road from the Hudson to New Paltz differed little at that time from the present—but from New Paltz to Mohonk no road of any consequence existed. Local picnic parties struggled up both sides of the mountains over paths that had gradually developed, doubtless, from ancient Indian trails. Approaching the place from the Wallkill Valley side, this rude path followed

along the eastern shore of the lake. It was under such conditions that Alfred Smiley paid his first visit to Lake Mohonk. He used to tell of his speechless wonder as he caught the first vision of these imprisoned waters; how weary and panting he struggled up that steep rocky path that brought him under the beetling heights of Sky Top; and how suddenly he saw through the dark pines the glittering water—and beyond it the wonderful cliffs rising from the western side of the lake. It had for him all the sensation of a discovery. It was as if now for the first time this lake had been looked upon by a white man. There was scarcely a sign of life. The shores were traversed by only a rough path; and the extraordinary fissures, caverns and rock formations that now afford so much delight, were most of them inaccessible — their existence not even suspected. As he saw it then, it could not have differed essentially from what it had been to the Indians. When the white men first appeared in this region—as early as 1614—the lake already had its name.

EARLY MOHONK



Mohonk—the Lake of the Sky. The valleys were peopled by Indians, Iroquois and Algonquins* and other tribes, fighting frequently and frequently moving, and all of them, doubtless, when hard pressed, retreating to the labyrinths of the Shawangunk (pronounced shongum) mountains. There could be no more baffling maze for the pursuing enemy than what existed then and exists now in these mountains; and Mr. Smiley has frequently expressed the opinion that he could still hide in the vicinity of the lake so that he could not be found by anybody.

At the time of this first visit of Mr. Smiley, the lake and adjacent property were owned by Mr. John F. Stokes, a farmer in the valley, an excellent man, who had already built a small rude structure where he could entertain picnic parties and, for those who were courageous, could offer lodging. Mr. Smiley has described it graphically:

**This should probably refer to the Delaware or Lenape rather than Algonquins.*

"There was a little house here in which a man kept a barroom, right under the corner of the present parlor. One room was for dancing, and people came up from the valley and danced all night for which he charged them one dollar a couple. This man, and an old lady and an Irish boy, ran the establishment. He sold liquor also though he tried to keep folks from drinking too much. When people, however, really got drunk and hard to manage, Mr. Stokes used to chain them to trees and in that way maintained order. Over the large dancing-room were ten bedrooms, each seven feet long by five feet wide. Each bed was a bunk a foot and a half wide with a straw mattress, one sheet, one quilt and a hen-feather pillow, and each room had one chair. If any one wanted to wash, the lake was handy. When a visitor demanded dinner, the Irish boy would catch a chicken, kill it in front of the house, and pass it over to the woman to cook. On one occasion—when there were no chickens to catch—they caught the pet peacock and the old woman



BOATING IN THE OLD DAYS

prepared it for the guest. This showed the good nature of Mr. Stokes. He thought a great deal of the peacock but the guest had to have some dinner—though the visitor confessed it was the toughest morsel he ever tackled.”

To the owner of that mountain hut in 1869, Mohonk was doubtless but a lake, and Sky Top no more than a cliff. To the man who had just climbed the mountain and stood enraptured on the other side of the lake, it was a prospect for which he could imagine no bounds. He saw in that quick sweep of his eye the whole future of the place unfolding and forming. He could scarcely believe that business sagacity had thus far missed a chance like this. He was standing less than a hundred miles from the metropolis of the country; he was surrounded by romantic natural features absolutely unknown to the great outside world — and so unique in character that they could be brought into no comparison with any other known region of the eastern states.

He was ferried across the lake; roamed en-

thusiastically from point to point; and could scarcely wait in patience till he should send word to his twin brother Albert. It is a pity that the letter he wrote has not been preserved. It reached his brother, who was then at the head of the well-known and successful Friends' School of Providence, R. I., at a time of year when the activities of the school were at their height and when no thought of anything else could be entertained. But here was a message from his brother—a wise, conservative man of great business sense—asking him to leave everything and to come to an obscure lake in New York state. He had a prompt reply ready. He sent word that it would be impossible. To a second appeal, however, Mr. Albert Smiley, though still protesting came on from Providence, and together the twin brothers visited the lake. The owner, Mr. Stokes, was there to meet them, and on that day they climbed to Sky Top. Mr. Albert Smiley relates that "Mr. Stokes did not appreciate some features of natural beauty. 'I suppose,' said he, 'that the



MOHONK HOUSE AFTER THE FIRST ADDITION

Creator made everything for some use; but what in the world He ever made this pizen laurel for I can't see. It never grows big enough for firewood and the cattle won't eat it'." The old man talked only of firewood, fodder, and area. He believed he had three hundred acres to dispose of—he had a map to prove it; but as the three men walked up to Sky Top and the view began to widen, it was evident that it was not a question of map or of acres with the two schoolmasters. They passed above the huge boulders that lie like a great chaos, and from the labyrinth they saw the lake with its indescribable color far below; they watched the gradual unfolding of the two fertile valleys and the Catskill range against the western sky, and finally at the summit, saw the white waters of the Hudson at West Point, and the far away hills of at least five adjacent states. They looked down as upon a kingdom. Both men were greatly impressed, and talking it over together agreed, as they generally did upon all questions, that before they parted that day from Mr. Stokes,



THE OLD BRIDGE ALONG LAKE SHORE CLIFFS

an option on the property should be secured by the brother Albert. The price demanded for it was forty thousand dollars. The price paid was twenty-eight thousand dollars. "I spent every dollar I had," said Mr. Smiley, "and ran in debt fourteen thousand dollars. My sole purpose was to provide a home and in order to pay for it I started in a business for which, above all things in the world, I had a distaste and no experience. I suppose that hotel keeping was the very last thing in my mind until I bought this place, when I was about forty-five years old. I had no more thought of it than of going to the moon. I had graduated from Haverford and was a teacher both by training and by taste. I had been nine years at the head of the Friends' School in Providence when I bought Mohonk; I remained at the head of it ten years longer in order to earn money for my new venture."

Mr. Albert Smiley therefore found himself suddenly in the hotel business. In the summer of 1870, the original house, erected by Mr. Stokes,



MOHONK HOUSE DURING THE EIGHTEEN SEVENTIES

was a trifle remodeled and made to accommodate about forty guests. They were nearly all personal friends from Philadelphia and from New York. Still averse to the details of hotel work, Mr. Smiley employed a manager, who managed things so badly that the next year he persuaded his brother Alfred to superintend the business features, and began an organized policy which has ever since marked the growth and success of Lake Mohonk.

There is a story prevalent to the effect that the original owner was a Quaker who refused to let the property go unless a compact was made never to sell liquor in the hotel. On the contrary, Mr. Stokes had always sold liquor and tried to persuade Mr. Smiley to keep on selling it—at least to the neighbors! And he had other serious ambitions; for he urged the new owners to establish a race-course near what is now known as the Home Farm; and he evidently was convinced that with liquor for the neighbors and guests, and a race-course for amusement and for a source of

income, the venture would prove a great success. The opinion of the old tavern keeper was probably shared by all other hotel men and most of the public. It seemed preposterous to conduct a house without a bar; and still more preposterous to exclude cards and dancing. But Mohonk had no difficulty in meeting the awful prophecies of failure. The hotel was full in its first season and has been full ever since.

The original purchase called for three hundred acres. As a matter of fact there were only two hundred and eighty acres. Besides the lake it included what is now the tennis courts, a narrow strip along Eagle Cliff, little of the Home Farm and Sky Top, and ended in the garden where the hotbeds now are.

This first purchase, however, was but the beginning. It became almost immediately manifest that no amount of moral force could preserve the character of Mohonk and keep away nuisances. The history of nearly every great estate is a record of self protection. In the first place, neigh-

bors in the country do not always share your respect for natural scenery and natural objects. If wood is needed, they cut down the trees, even along the roadside — the best and the biggest; if large berry crops are wanted, they do not hesitate to set fire to acres and acres and imperil a whole county; if they need building stone—they blow up a historic precipice; if they seek drainage they foolishly pollute a mountain stream. To protect Mohonk from all these dangers, Mr. Smiley began a series of purchases. He was surrounded by farms, and one after another they were added to his holdings. "The hardest work I ever did in my life," said Mr. Smiley, "was the buying of those farms." No sooner was a menace disposed of in one direction than another one appeared somewhere else. It was a perennial contest. Farms good, bad and indifferent had to be gathered in. Some were promptly developed for dairy purposes—and still contribute to the supplies of the house. Some continued to be used for crops and for the support of cattle and horses.



THE OFFICE BUILDING ABOUT 1882

For several years some of them yielded abundant quantities of fruit. It has taken over one hundred distinct purchases to establish the present state of immunity. From a plot of two hundred and eighty acres, the estate has been extended to a domain of over five thousand acres. From a span of a few hundred feet along the lake it has been increased to a length of about eight miles, and approaches New Paltz to within a mile. This is sufficient to show the growth in mere acreage and to afford a startling contrast to that first but most important purchase made in the summer of '69.

But the growth in territory, while interesting enough, is after all the least important phase of the development of Mohonk. The land so acquired meant something else; it meant that the hotel was growing and it meant especially that tremendous energy had to be turned to the development and to the beautifying of that land. The old Stokes House that stood near the lake, as already intimated, underwent immediate changes.

To this was added the old dining room wing. Back of this and on a level with the cliffs the small parlor building was erected and became one of the memorable features of early Mohonk. "The Little Parlor," with its expressive, cosy chairs and its genteel habituées, grew, to some of those interesting little ladies, almost sacred.

In 1879* the Rock Building, now the oldest part of the house, was erected. While the old parlor was still standing, the original office wing was demolished and the first enlargement of the business part of the house was made in 1880. In 1888 "The Little Parlor" was torn down and the present Central Building was constructed. In 1892-93 the Grove Building and dining room and the new kitchen were added. The old dining hall was divided into temporary rooms and this wing preserved until 1902 when it was torn down. In 1899-1900 the large office building,

**Several minor corrections have been made in the dates of construction, as certain of those given in the original text were somewhat misleading. A more complete chronology will be found on page 137.*



THE FIRST TOWER ON SKY TOP—ERECTED 1872

containing small rooms above and the old Lake Reading Room, was demolished and the present structure with the great parlor took its place. At the same time the first stone building rose next to Central Building, and finally, as the last process in the evolution of the House as it now stands, in 1901-02, the lofty stone section supplanted the old parlor wing.

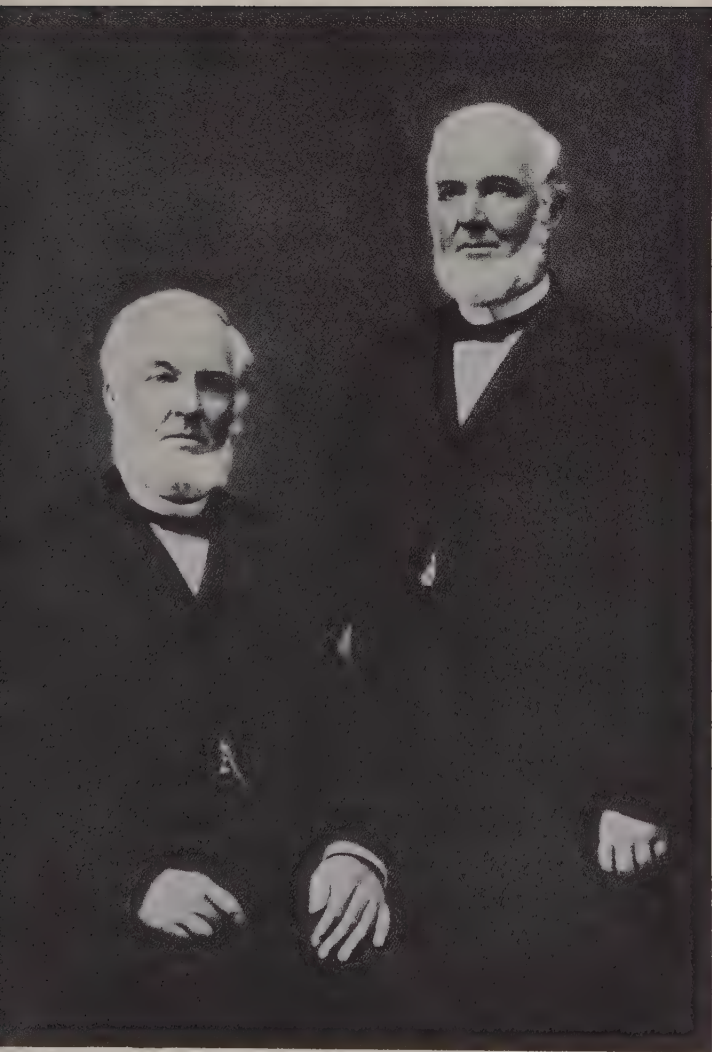
Meanwhile the development of the grounds went on with great rapidity. Wild nature came up to the very doors of the hotel and rough paths or trails had been broken only to prominent points. Not infrequently guests lost their way on the long tramps, and on one occasion a lady despairing of ever getting home became hysterical and set up heart-rending shrieks till help came. She was found standing less than two hundred feet from the house.

To make accessible the beauty and romance of the mountain, the systematic construction of paths was begun. Through labyrinth and forest, over ravines and under precipices, through fissure and

cavern and solemn vales year after year the trails were made and the trails then widened into walks, till one could well nigh spend a summer in tramping without the repetition of a path; and it is one of the pleasantest memories of those earlier days to recall the forenoon tours led by Mr. Smiley himself, when scores of guests both young and old went forth with Alpine stocks to explore the mysteries of the Shawangunk range. Gradually along these paths sprang up the rustic seats with straw-thatched roofs, peculiar to Mohonk; and as time went on the names of distinguished visitors were given to these picturesque houses, of which at present there must be no less than one hundred and fifty.*

For years the only drive, and that a rough one, was what was known as Whitney Road, leading over to Mountain Rest. Later came a beautiful road called Woodland Drive, circling about the base of Eagle Cliff through the chestnut forest.¹ In quick succession roads were built to Cope's

*The number of summerhouses in the year 1950 was 140.



THE SMILEY TWINS—ALFRED AND ALBERT

Lookout, North Lookout, Eagle Cliff and Sky Top, involving at some points the highest engineering skill. Bonticou Drive came in 1895 the long winding forest road—Oakwood Drive—followed in 1898; the bold and romantic Laurel Ledge Road in 1900; Undercliff and Terrace Drive in 1903; the great road to Minniewaska in 1907; all of these drives presenting model examples of road making under surprising difficulties, surprisingly overcome.

The demolition of the old stables in 1888, marked the real beginning of the extensive gardens. The land thus liberated grew rapidly larger, and, as already mentioned, no one who has not seen the untamable jungle beyond this point could appreciate the combined enthusiasm and energy required to transform all that into the blossoming acres that now stretch almost to the crest of the mountain. What that garden yields in variety and color, what it succeeds in producing against apparently natural obstacles, is a story by itself. There are six thousand rose bushes

of the choicest kinds, five thousand peonies, four thousand phlox, eight thousand bedding plants, and one of the largest collections of herbaceous perennials and shrubs in the country.*

No words can convey any conception of the difficulties that confronted the new owner of Mohonk when he really began to exploit the mountains for roads and flower beds. Gardening with Mr. Smiley was dangerously near a passion. As nature had arranged things at Mohonk there seemed to be only two places for growing flowers—on the quartz rocks and on the branches of trees. A remote third might have been on the lake—a floating garden. There was not a square of a hundred feet where anything but ferns and lichens could hold on—and it had taken some of the lichens a hundred years or more to cover a few inches. The old guests with records of thirty summers are the only ones who can really

**At the time of printing of the 3rd edition, there are some larger collections in the country. The figures on plants in the garden have changed, though there are still large collections of many items.*

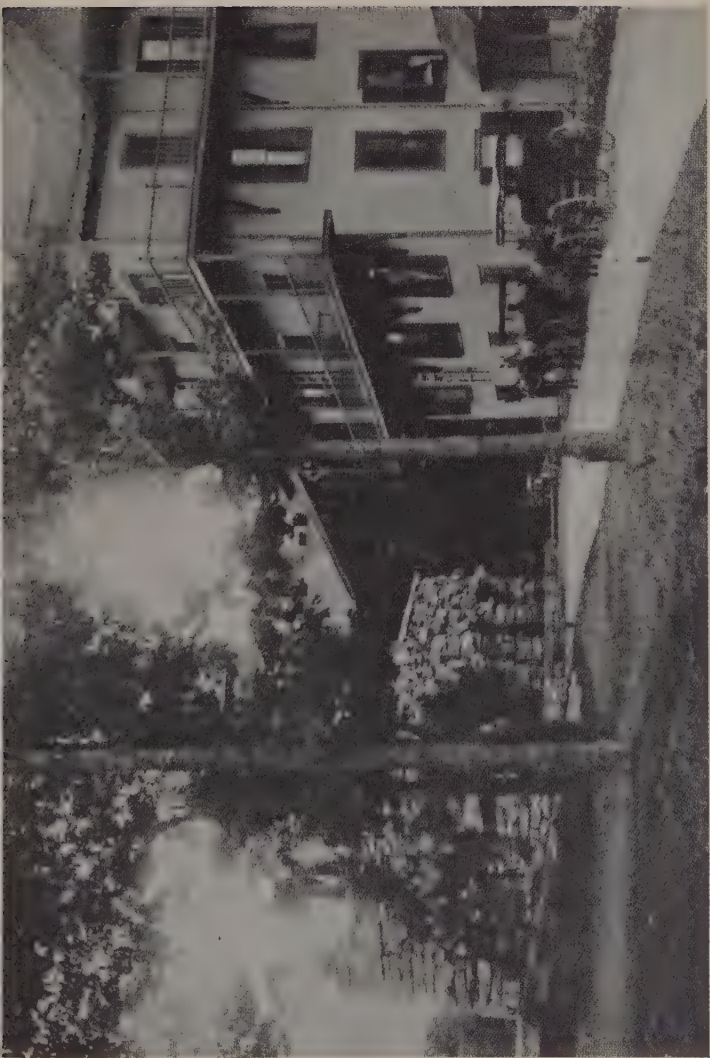


MOHONK HOUSE IN THE EIGHTEEN-EIGHTIES
BEFORE ERECTION OF GROVE BUILDING

appreciate the miracle of the gardens. They can look back to the time when Mr. Smiley used to point with pride to a bed of geraniums on the side of the road close to the water and to a delicate white birch tree that looked like a frail child—not long for this world. He succeeded in stringing those geraniums along the road as it swings over the bridge and to the south, and every bud cost him, probably, five dollars. Anybody caught plucking one would doubtlessly have paid ten or have been sent away. He classed that sin with drink. Gradually these ganglia of flowers began to grow. Larger beds were made—soil was brought long distances and all around the exterior of the house plants were made to flourish in especially fortified enclosures and in soil that practically had to be renewed to the last particle every year. Finally when the old stables near the bowling-alleys were removed in 1888 the present garden, as already noted, began its remarkable expansion. Beyond the stables lay a wilderness of boulders and cliffs. To civilize this was literally

asking Faith to remove mountains. It was done partly, perhaps, to provide space for flowers. It was more likely that the impossible nature of the task acted as a challenge. It is always so with intrepid engineers—pole seekers—besiegers. Getting the land may have been the hardest thing Mr. Smiley ever did—but taming it gave him the greatest delight of his life. He did not rest until he had coaxed into blossom nearly twenty acres of that hopeless slope of the mountain. Most of the earth was brought a mile or more—and the wonder is, still, how it is ever kept in place. To this garden Mr. Smiley has given no end of time and intelligent care, and his reward has been, as he himself says, "a long life and abounding health."

Unique as the physical history of Mohonk has been, it is doubtless the spirit of the place that ultimately distinguishes it from all others. Its well known silent code relating to the common nuisances of liquor, dancing, card playing and Sabbath breaking gave it a certain eminence from



THE GARDEN WING—TORN DOWN IN 1902

the start. The truth about these rules is that Mr. Smiley never made any rules. He never, in fact, had any intention of conducting a hotel; at least, of conducting one on conventional plans. His guests were, at first, nearly all of them personal friends. They came very much as they would have come to his private home. It proved to most of them a refreshing delight to find one place in the land free from the despotic sway of a bar, of noisy dancing and bad music, of monopolizing card parties, and of a Sunday that differed from no other day. Some of them used to remark that it had the restful isolation of an ocean voyage—though in these days of wireless, the invasion of Mohonk remains even less than that of the Atlantic. The first noticeable result was in the personnel of the guests. The house never advertised and never sought publicity. Mr. Smiley himself met every guest on arrival and was present always to say God-speed. The native atmosphere of the place brought speedily together a body of well-bred, unostentatious, thoughtful

people. They were not of any particular type or caste. A classification of any of those early registers would show a widely representative group of American men of affairs. Lawyers, doctors, scholars, bankers, merchants and executives came in great numbers—and continued to come year after year. That was the abiding feature. It became a settled summer abode for scores of well-known families. It was perhaps noticeably free from the ultra-fashionable, mercerized or newspaper society, and has always remained so. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler,* who came to Mohonk first in 1879, describes his immediate meeting with many prominent people. He found here the nieces of Washington Irving; he met for the first time the merchant philanthropist, William E. Dodge; Arnold Guyot, the distinguished scientist — for whom Guyot's Hill is named; Philip Schaff, the tireless scholar, editor, friend of all the world's

**Portraits of many of the people mentioned on this and the following pages may be seen in the dining room hallway.*

great thinkers. He records his meeting here with Mrs. Grant, wife of the soldier President; with President Hayes — and Roosevelt and Waring; with Edward Everett Hale, Justices Brewer and Strong, Senator Dawes and many, many more. For nearly thirty consecutive summers Dr. Cuyler himself lent to the sparkling intellectual life of Mohonk no small measure.

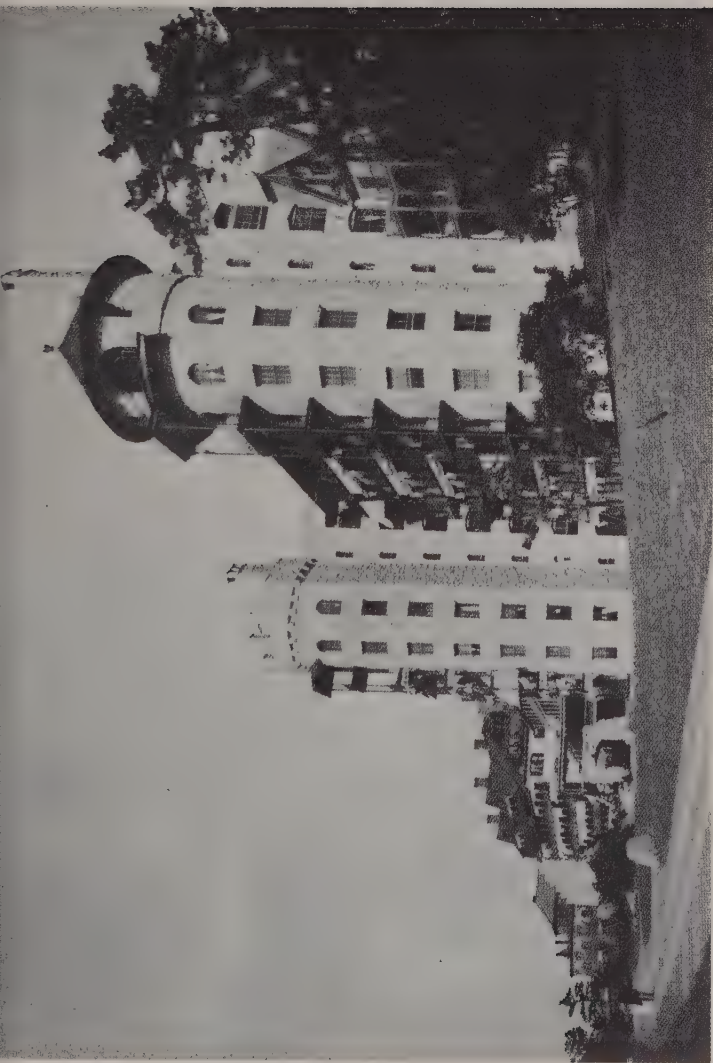
It would be strange indeed if a gathering of serious and prominent people like this could happen so often and so steadily without something more than mere social results. In 1879, Mr. Albert Smiley was appointed by President Hayes to the Board of Indian Commissioners. Surrendering himself to a conscientious study of the problems he became convinced that they needed more discussion and care than the Indian Bureau could give them. In the fall of 1883, he called the first Conference of Friends of the Indians. He invited to that first week's conference a group of men and women either expert or vitally interested in Indian affairs and in the



MOHONK HOUSE IN THE EIGHTEEN-NINETIES
BEFORE ERECTION OF STONE BUILDING

betterment of Indian conditions. It discussed, what subsequent conferences continued to do, every phase of the Indian service and plead jealously for the purity and the honor of all relations of our National Government to that service. The consequences of these annual discussions are matters of record—the whole public sentiment has been changed and the recommendations of the Conference have passed into actual legislation. The first Conference had for its President, General Clinton B. Fisk. Among the distinguished men who have since filled the office may be mentioned the late Philip C. Garrett, Dr. Merrill E. Gates, Hon. John D. Long, Judge Andrew S. Draper, Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, and Elmer E. Brown.

The reforms demanded in the Indian Service being practically realized, the Conference of 1904 decided to broaden its field to include the welfare of colonial peoples, and the name was changed to "Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples."



THE "NEW" STONE BUILDING, ABOUT 1902.

Under this title the work of the Conference goes on, and in October of each year Mr. Smiley continues to invite to Mohonk as his personal guests for three days several hundred people to discuss questions and to suggest measures relating to colonial affairs.

The Conference on International Arbitration met first in the month of June in 1895 at Mohonk when Mr. Smiley invited about fifty persons of note and influence to come together and to form some organized plan for the study and discussion of that great subject. The purpose was from the first reasonable and definite. It proposed to discuss all practical means for substituting arbitration for war, to suggest and to urge methods and mechanism for the settlement of international differences, and to keep the public steadily informed of its economic features and possibilities. These Conferences, increasing from fifty persons in 1895 to more than three hundred in 1910, have brought together not only the influential people of our own country, but many



MOHONK HOUSE, 1911

distinguished statesmen, diplomats, jurists and educators of other countries. The activity of the Conference, no longer confined to its brief session, is now continuous. It maintains a permanent office, a permanent secretary, furnishes statistics and information to the press and to the public, and carries on wide and effective propaganda. Nearly two hundred boards of trade and chambers of commerce, representating the largest cities of the land, co-operate with the Conference, and many of them maintain arbitration committees and send delegates. It has brought about the introduction of the study into various universities and colleges; has done much to inspire the foundation of the New York Peace Society, the Inter-collegiate Peace Society, the American Society of International Law; and finally, as a significant recognition of its achievements, Albert K. Smiley has been named as one of the administrators of Andrew Carnegie's gift of ten million dollars to the cause of international peace.



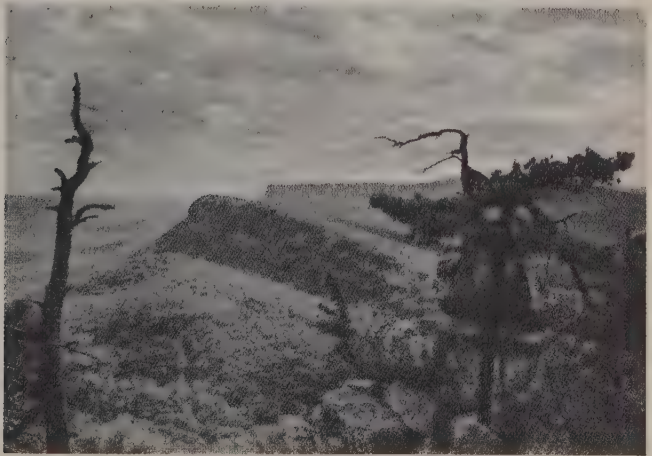
MEMBERS OF LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE ON
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION—1905

It is little wonder, therefore, that to the army of guests who have climbed to Mohonk for the past forty years, it should have grown to be a sort of citadel—morally embattled and fearless of the foe; and little wonder, too, that these same guests should conceive the wish to dignify the approach to such a fortress by some formal and expressive portal, and so honor the life and work of its master spirit. The Testimonial Gateway, erected to commemorate the golden anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Smiley's wedding, serves thus the double purpose, and constitutes a unique and remarkable testimony to the public services of the place and of the man.

The story of Mohonk then, becomes obviously no simple chronicle of a mountain resort—the annals of a pleasant community of summer guests. Its material success, however amazing, has created only the setting for movements that have long since been justified and which, affecting the honor and welfare of the country, have also done much to foster new ideals of human



WASHINGTON'S PROFILE



THE TRAPPS FROM EAGLE CLIFF



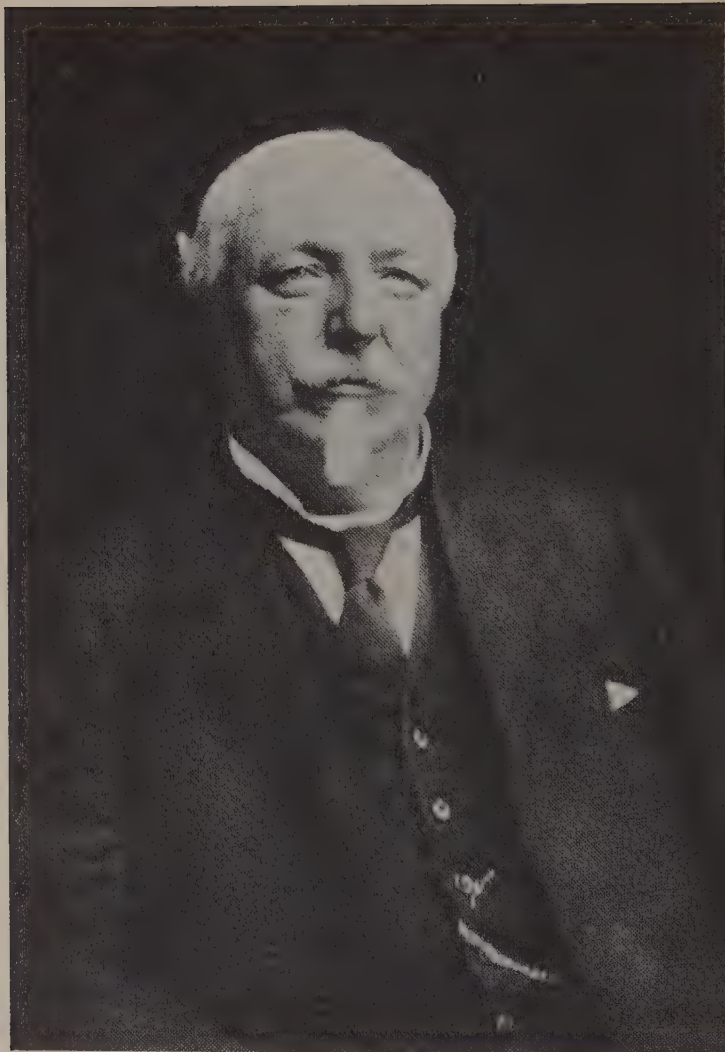
VIEW FROM EAGLE CLIFF



SKY TOP ROAD

obligations, and to inspire new hopes for the intercourse of men.





DANIEL SMILEY

THE STORY
OF MOHONK

Part Two

COMPILED BY
DANIEL SMILEY, JR.
ALBERT K. SMILEY, JR.



NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO



EFFIE F. SMILEY

FOREWORD

TO supply the additional information, so frequently requested, which covers the story of Mohonk up to the present time from the date of publication of the first edition, the following pages have been written.

It is a rare and infrequent occurrence to find one in sympathy with the traditions of the place who would at the same time have the ability to produce a second story in the same style as the well-balanced and finished work of Mr. Partington, a man whose versatile talent and artistic temperament were so well fitted to the task. As a result, with no small amount of hesitation, the second part has been compiled, for the most part, directly from the voluminous notes of Daniel Smiley. These, when chronologically arranged and with certain personal material removed, seem to cover all phases of Mohonk's development with sufficient adequacy, even though there is lacking the skillful touch of Mr. Partington's pen.



THE FLOWER GARDENS IN 1900



THE FLOWER GARDENS IN THE NINETEEN-THIRTIES

THE STORY OF MOHONK

Part Two

ON December 2, 1912, after a brief illness, Albert K. Smiley died at his winter home in Redlands, California, at the age of eighty-four years. A few weeks later his sweet-souled wife joined him in the world beyond. For many seasons they had been revered and loved as host and hostess. Although in her later years Mrs. Smiley became an invalid, she continued to share her husband's zeal for Mohonk's development.

In spite of his busy, active life here, Mr. Smiley's concern for the welfare of his fellow-men led him to found the two great Conferences that were destined to make him a leader among those interested in humanitarian projects. It is appropriate that today the life-like portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Smiley hang in the parlor in which these Conferences assembled.

The ownership of Mohonk then fell to Daniel Smiley, a younger brother, who, like his brother Albert, left his profession of teaching and was

drawn here in 1880 by the combined effects of two irresistible attractions—family affection and the beautiful environment. Consequently, even before coming into actual possession of the property, Daniel Smiley had a large share in its development. He had been given by his older brother the utmost freedom of action toward carrying out the detail of many plans developing the physical and material aspects of Mohonk. All the present House, excepting the Rock Building section, constructed before his arrival, was planned and erected by him. Practically all forestry and farm work received his personal supervision. For many years following 1880, the engineering developments,—civil, mechanical, and electrical—were under his direction.

Almost at the beginning of Daniel Smiley's ownership, there came the World War, which temporarily interrupted the development of the property. Nevertheless, two thousand acres or more were gradually added to the Mohonk Estate since the first edition of this book, making now



UNDERCLIFF ROAD



THE GREAT CREVICE

about seven thousand five hundred acres in all. This has been acquired in over twenty different purchases and was for the most part deforested land. A great deal of it has been added to the farms which have increased in size to about two thousand acres of cultivated and pasture land with dairy herds numbering more than one hundred head. For many years milk for the House has been supplied from these farms, the herd having passed various tests for purity. Aside from the occasional value of these purchases in the production of farm products, the essential reason for these additions to the property is that the land may be used and enjoyed by guests at Mohonk, giving them further protection from outside disturbances. But the mere acquisition of land represents only a small part of the material development of Mohonk which has taken place in the last twenty years.

The story of the construction of roads so interestingly set forth in the first edition of this book did not end there. To avoid the rough and

steep public road on the east side, Lenape Lane was completed for use in 1925 in connection with a part of the former stage road, as an approach for automobiles through the Testimonial Gateway to Mountain Rest. On the west side Mohonk has constructed a large loop in the public road, lessening the very steep grade on the automobile approach from the Rondout Valley, which will be remembered all too well by many older guests. Overcliff, a scenic road on the western rocky slope, has been completed. It was Mr. Smiley's intention that, in connection with Undercliff, it should provide, as he used to say, "a complete circuit for morning or afternoon drive, extending to the pass at the top of The Trapps" where they connect with The Trapps Road to Minnewaska. A quarry and slate-crushing plant still provide ideal surfacing material for drives carrying light traffic, while crushed Shawangunk grit for roads subject to constant use has recently been obtained in considerable quantities from the bluff northwest of Woodland Bridge. Many old guests of

the House will recall that, in explaining the nature of this rock which is so prominent in Mohonk's landscape, Mr. Smiley used to say, "What we knew as the very hard and enduring Oneida Conglomerate in our school days in geology is our Shawangunk grit plentifully embellished with quartz crystals."

Since 1919, a bungalow business has developed at Mountain Rest, two miles from Mohonk. There are now about twenty buildings which include a farm-house, a central dining room, and a number of cottages in protected and scenic spots along the east and west slopes of Prospect Hill. Across the public road from this colony a fireproof garage has been constructed housing eighty-four cars, sixty-one of them in individual rooms. The golf course, also situated at Mountain Rest, has been increased to eighteen holes in a wonderfully picturesque setting, affording extensive views of both the east and west valleys.

The Mohonk School, a private boarding school for boys, was formally opened in 1920, occupying



TESTIMONIAL GATEWAY

the Grove Building section of the House from October until May. Since both Albert K. and Daniel Smiley, the masters of Mohonk, had left their vocations of teaching to develop the property, it seemed in keeping with family traditions that a school should be conducted by the Smiley family, with the hope that the citizens of tomorrow would gain physically, mentally, and morally by their sojourn in this atmosphere.

Just as Mr. Partington pictures the Testimonial Gateway as dignifying the approach to Mohonk, "the Citadel—morally embattled and fearless to to the foe," so it became fitting that this "fortress" should have a watch-tower standing out upon its highest vantage point. The Albert K. Smiley Memorial Tower on the summit of Sky Top, a spot described in Dutch records as early as 1677, was built of enduring Shawangunk grit quarried at its base, and was presented in 1923 through contributions from eight hundred and seventy-five Mohonk guests and neighbors. On its exposed corner is a turret designed for the

free use of the Conservation Department of the State of New York, and occupied eight months of the year by a watchman to detect and report forest fires. The gleaming walls of quartz crystal, surmounted by our country's flag, can be seen by day in an unbroken sweep from every point of the compass; from the Tower one can see across New York into the five states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. By night a powerful beacon light is visible at a great distance. This tower marks the boundary of the three Ulster County Townships of Marbletown, Rochester and New Paltz. The quarry near the base was made into a deep reservoir, serviceable not only in its additional reserve of over a million gallons of water for fire protection, but also picturesque in the irregularity of its shape and its rugged setting. Towards the close of a clear, still day it affords a perfectly mirrored reflection of the Memorial Tower at its edge.

Inside the House, although no sections have

been added since the building of the stone section in 1901-02, the appointments have been kept modern by a continual process of improvement. Considerable progress has been made in providing additional bathrooms and hot and cold running water in rooms without bath. Every room has been provided with steam heat, used whenever the temperature requires it. The kitchen and dining room have been supplied with all necessary modern equipment and all food is prepared under expert supervision.

The story of Mohonk's growth would not be complete without mentioning the library collected by Mr. Smiley, which now contains some ten thousand volumes obtained during fifty-five years. Besides the books on the open shelves in Central Hall, those familiar with the House know of the large store of old, rare, and choice books to be found in the "Lower Hall." Among these there is a large and valuable collection of works on landscape gardening, forestry, and allied subjects. A circulating library of fiction is kept in the sales-



CENTRAL BUILDING FROM THE FLOWER GARDENS

room, where books may be rented.*

An area covering the upper reaches of the mountain has been set aside as a game refuge for the protection of wild birds and animals. Beyond that limit, permits for hunting in open season are issued to dependable persons. Wild deer are often seen and become quite fearless—sometimes too tame for the good of the flower garden and farmers' crops. Foxes, raccoons, rabbits, pheasants, grouse, and over seventy-five species of smaller birds are fairly abundant on the property. There, too, is a surpassing variety in vegetation. A hundred tree species clothe these slopes and ridges, while many a region elsewhere has barely a dozen.

The Shawangunk Mountains are sparingly covered by a thin soil with a superabundance of imbedded rocks which has proved wonderfully congenial to the growth of trees and shrubs and vines and flowers. It is with amazement that one sees trees of considerable dimensions growing out of rock crevices where no soil is visible and

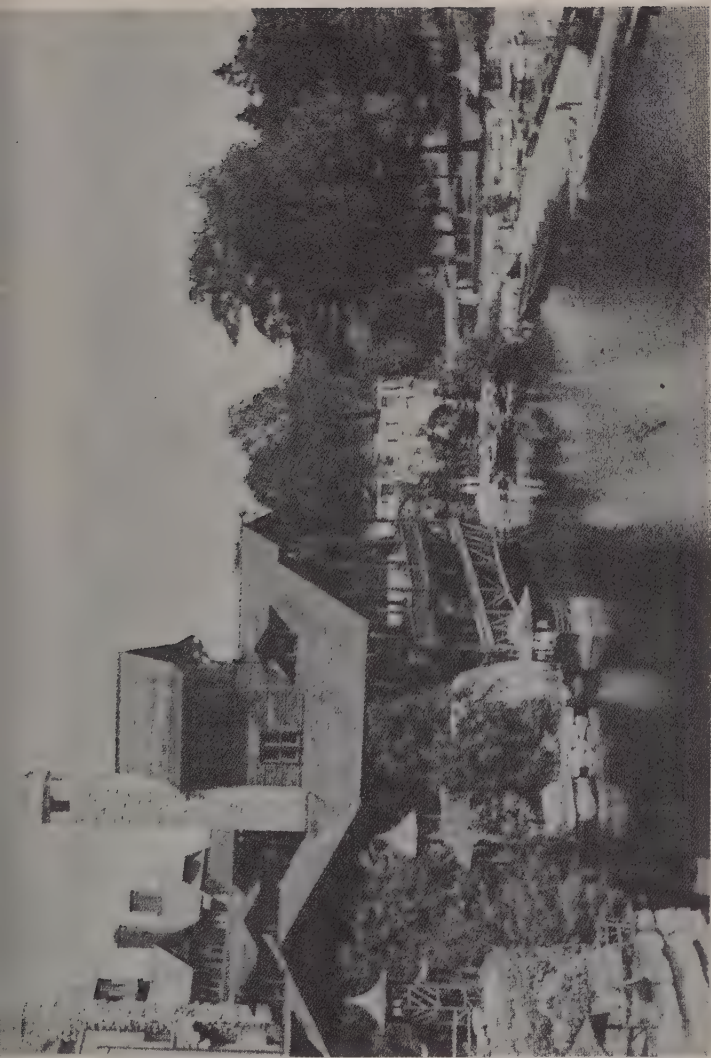
**At the time of 2nd printing of Fourth Edition, a number of changes have been made in the library, so that books have been consolidated in one location and classified.*

luxuriant vines running far up the house walls from shallow loam-beds about the foundations. Also distant woods and pastures and ravines have been explored to ornament the nearby landscape. One result of this skillful planting Mr. Smiley has described in an entertaining fashion:

"The embarrassing condition has not been infrequent for guests to bring in with great glee broken branches, or even a whole plant, supposing it to be a new discovery of nature's planting when, in fact, they have despoiled treasures carefully transplanted and lovingly nursed into a new location. This is not to be wondered at, for it has been the aim to establish plantings in their new settings with surroundings perfectly natural, and it is taken rather as a compliment that art should be perfect enough to be mistaken for nature."

There is a not unnatural curiosity among summer guests to know what goes on in winter, and Mohonk is indeed then a rather busy place. The upkeep of such a property requires a great varie-

ty of activities, all of which must be organized, coordinated, and planned far in advance in order to function at their appointed time. Some activities continue throughout the year, some in summer or in winter alone, still others in spring or fall in the absence of guests. With the closing of the House in late October, preparation for the next season immediately begins. There is cleaning, painting, and a great deal of other mechanical work inside the House, while outside, the fertilization of flower beds and lawns, and road repair are the most important among the numerous activities necessary before frost hardens the ground. In winter wood-chopping is done on scientific forestry lines, with a view to encouraging plants and trees of value and thousands of bedding plants require attention in the greenhouses. The Mohonk School makes many activities throughout the period when the House is closed. An office staff is always busy and roads up the mountain are opened, after each snow storm, for carrying mail, provisions, coal for the



OFFICE BUILDING FROM PINE BLUFF, 1931

power plant, and a vast variety of other supplies. Enormous drifts must be shovelled from the roofs of buildings, and ice harvested from the lake.*

With the coming of spring a complete cleaning of the House is necessary and the final repairs are made before it is put in order for opening. In the gardens there is the care of hotbeds, the sowing of flower seeds, the setting out of thousands of annuals, and the planting of trees in cultivated ground and woods. Also roads and fresh green lawns are groomed and put in shape. It is impossible to enumerate the many interesting happenings which occur at intermittent times, but it is at least clear that those are not idle who live at Mohonk for more than the summer season.

The success of this enterprise depends on employees no less than on its owners. Many here remain continuously,—fifteen to twenty years, a considerable number up to twenty-five and thirty years and a few even longer. In a number of cases there have been three generations of the

**As of the time of the 2nd printing of Fourth Edition, wood operations have lessened, the school has moved to a different location, and guest operation continues through the year.*

same family employed at one time. Several of the prominent positions have only changed hands two or three times in the sixty years of operation of the House. "To their sense of duty, loyalty, and unselfish devotion," as Mr. Smiley often said, "is largely due the comfort and happiness of guests."

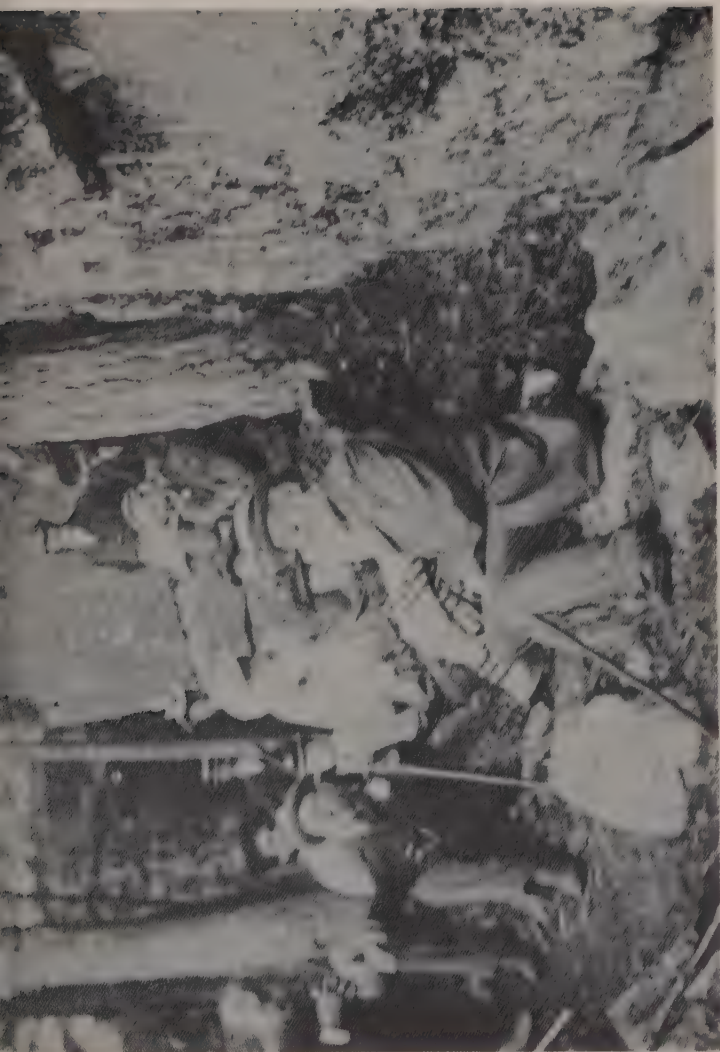
At this point it again becomes fitting to turn to the evolution of Mohonk along less material lines. This aspect, so deep and significant, but correspondingly so hard to set in writing stands out as being of far the greatest ultimate importance. Yet, in the end, this unique spirit may be considered a natural outgrowth or result of such a fascinating physical history. Mohonk's "well-known silent code," as it is so aptly described by Mr. Partington, has been continued wherever, as always, it conforms with the general feelings and long-established custom of Mohonk guests. The peculiar friendly spirit which exists at Mohonk has always been the result of its gathering of thoughtful, well-bred guests, many of whom

was intended to make that summer home of the students up the long periods of rest.

The history of the frequency of Michael's visits with their family brought to the ears of Dr. S. W. Cooper, who held a position there, close with the Board that he called upon New York to inquire as to the real cause of the spreading of the illness in 1933. He was successful in 1937 in Dr. Howard H. Crosby who, through the medical society, advised physicians to abstain from such and like to see if the illness was connected with the exposure until late September of 1934.

Following the death their connection was not made of the late Dr. Theodore L. Cooper, in which he came to be called "The Michael Syndrome" by late Dr. William H. P. Farrow, a President of Johns University, made Michael his summer home for more than twenty years and considered about twice in the paper each Sunday morning for use in their families. From time to time many other distinguished clergymen have spoken from Michael's pulpit.

日本の戦艦「大和」の沈没現場、大和の残骸が海底に横たわっている。写真：NHK



The account of those having an important part in the development of a greater Mohonk is incomplete without mention of Mrs. Daniel Smiley, whose special responsibility and pleasure, for many years, has been the care of the flower gardens which, in their refreshing beauty and color, have brought delight and peace to unnumbered visitors. The ever-welcome demands of hospitality came to her not as a duty, but as a high privilege, and many have been grateful for her friendship. It is the hope of Mohonk's guests and family alike that they may be blessed by her presence for many years in the future, as they have been in the past.

Following the death of Albert K. Smiley, the meetings of the Conference on International Arbitration in May and those on the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples in October were continued by the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smiley until the year 1916, when they were interrupted by conditions resulting from the World War. At this time it became no longer possible

to gather together the representative men and women necessary to carry on the work. However, President Taft had appointed Daniel Smiley to his brother Albert's place on the Board of Indian Commissioners and this group continued to meet at Mohonk as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smiley each year in October. This peaceful setting, enhanced by the stimulation of colorful autumn foliage and distant views in the cool, crisp air, continued to be conducive to clear thought, calm discussion, and active cooperation among those meeting here.

In 1929 there materialized the long-cherished wish of Mr. Smiley to resume the fall meetings of the larger Indian Conference. After several months of thought and careful planning, he invited a group of friends of the Indian to become his guests at Mohonk in October of that year for discussion of present-day Indian problems. At the first session of this Conference, on October 16, its Chairman, Dr. Samuel A. Eliot, in his reply to Mr. Smiley's welcome, expressed the follow-

ing thought:—

“I can remind you that our hearts are filled at the opening of another Conference with happy memories of those who walked with us here in former days and in cordial fellowship. They have passed their torches to us; it is for us to carry on and carry out their unfinished tasks. While we are reaching confidently for something better, we are holding on with reasonable security to something behind. We are reaping what others have sowed, and now we in turn are to sow what others may reap.”

Thus this Thirty-fifth Lake Mohonk Conference on the Indian resumed once more the interrupted conferences, so long a part of Mohonk's tradition. Great effort was entailed in carrying out the preliminary arrangements for its organization; yet the Conference was a source of great gratification to Mr. Smiley. Consequently, he himself and the members of his family were entirely unprepared for his serious illness which resulted in his death on February 14, 1930, at



THE GOLF HOUSE

Mohonk Lake. The ownership and management of the property and the Lake Mohonk Mountain House have passed to Albert K. and Francis G. Smiley, two sons of Daniel Smiley. With firm belief in the ideals of Mohonk and with great earnestness of purpose they have accepted this heritage.

Finally, looking back for a moment, we find the influence of Daniel Smiley, just as that of his older brother before him, interwoven with all the many lines of Mohonk's growth. He made a vast contribution to the spiritual and material history of Mohonk for fifty years and the guests of to-day are reaping the benefits of his wisdom and his leadership. Thus, in closing, it is most fitting to quote from an address delivered by him at the celebration of Mohonk's fiftieth anniversary, on June 1, 1920, in which he said:—"This in brief is the history of Mohonk, yet it is probably the least important of all that has happened here in the last century. Its real history is not tangible, it cannot be weighed or measured or counted.

The idea my brother had in purchasing this place was to make a summer home for himself and family and for his friends. He found that the income of a rather successful school teacher was not sufficient to develop the place according to his visions, and it became a summer resort in addition to a family home.

"Throughout the fifty years with my brother, with myself, and with my sons the business and commercial features have not been primary, but merely needful means to the end of restful recreation and refreshment—both of body and soul. Whatever earnings have been made have been returned to the business, less ordinary family expenditures. In a very real sense we do not look upon ourselves as irresponsible owners, but as trustees or stewards with the mandate of administering the property for the recreation of visitors equally with ourselves.

"With the accomplishment of facilities for recreation have come opportunities for service in other directions. Conferences have been assembled,

our interest in educational matters has continued, and in them and in other directions has been strong hope and encouragement from those who visit here for rest and recreation. Tangible evidences of this interest are about us,—such as yonder tablet commemorating the fiftieth year since this property was acquired, the great parlor clock, the sundial in the garden, a fountain and bird-bath for the garden, the Choralcelo, and the Testimonial Gateway.* These, and many other remembrances are indications of a spirit to 'carry on' among those who have dwelt here for a season by this little lake.

"In the building of visions and dreams into tangible results there has always been, too, the loyal and magnificent support of employees and neighbors. With the unparalleled difficulties of this present year we could not go on at all except for the steadfast, unselfish, and devoted labor of employees in all stations who have grown up

**Since this address the Sky Top Tower has been presented as previously mentioned.*

with Mohonk and woven its ideals into their lives, and hopes, and ambitions. Through all the years there has been reason for the oft-repeated comment that no one could be blessed with better neighbors than we. We have daily cause for thankfulness to be so environed. All alike,—guests, neighbors, employees,—have contributed their share to work out our ideals, and we trust that our united efforts have not been in vain.”



THE STORY
OF MOHONK

Part Three

ALBERT K. SMILEY, JR.



NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO



THE MOHONK SPRING HOUSE

FOREWORD

(for Part Three)

The full impact of a play is seldom recognized while the actors are still on the stage. Likewise a chronicle of contemporary events has more of the character of a news report than of a balanced history unless the writer waits, and allows the years to bring perspective.

Though this third part of the story of Mohonk will need to be re-written into history at a later time, it does at least attempt to record some trends, in spite of the attendant difficulties. One of these problems is the current rapidity of change, with the possibility that some of our general interpretations may be almost out-of-date by the time they are printed.

Mr. Partington's story, and even Part II, could be based largely on the story of the doings of a man. The third part would have to be written from a different point of view, even if its writer did possess Mr. Partington's skill, or comprehen-

sive notes such as were available for the second part.

While planning these brief statements about Mohonk's seventh, eighth, and ninth decades, the writer has been impressed by Mr. Partington's prophetic statement that "The Story of Mohonk" becomes "no simple chronicle".

THE STORY OF MOHONK

Part Three

Family and Business Organization

From many points of view the Story of Mohonk is no longer a "simple chronicle". For forty years Albert Smiley, and then for twenty years Daniel Smiley, had run Mohonk as "head of the family". In 1930 the partnership of Albert K. Smiley and Francis G. Smiley was formed. On the thirty-first of December 1953, this ownership was extended to include Daniel Smiley (then junior), Albert K. Smiley, Jr., and Gerow Smiley. Also in 1953, in order that the transfer of property to succeeding generations might be on a more manageable basis, the land and buildings were incorporated, under the name of Lake Mohonk Corporation, while the partnership continued to operate the Mountain House and other Mohonk enterprises. These arrangements allow the five partners to cover a wide range of in-



MOHONK IN WINTER GARB

terests and better meet the complicated processes of modern business operation.

There are frequent questions about Mohonk's relationship with its neighbor, the Lake Minnewaska Mountain Houses. Alfred Smiley, twin brother of Albert, and co-founder of Mohonk, moved to Minnewaska to start a resort in 1879. He continued for a time to help his brother with the practical affairs of Mohonk, making almost daily trips back and forth in his buggy. For a few years joint advertising booklets were issued, and for a long time there was complete "reciprocity" for guests of one place taking meals at the other, in connection with the regular carriage trips between the adjoining properties. But as soon as Alfred became established in his new location, and after Daniel Smiley had taken over as general manager of Mohonk (as described in Part Two) the two enterprises were operated separately, and have so continued. Cordial family relations, and intervisitation by guests of the two resorts, have continued up to the present time.

Part II of this story refers to the first Albert K. Smiley's wife, Eliza, as "sweet-souled". We are sure that many Mohonk guests whose lives have been enriched by contact with Effie F. Smiley, wife of Albert's younger brother Daniel, would apply the same description to her. She survived her husband by over 20 years, and during those later times her serenity of outlook undergirded the efforts of other members of the family, as they struggled successively with problems created by depression, world war, rationing, and inflation. Effie F. Smiley died on May 14, 1951.

Reference to our history frequently is accompanied by requests for clarification of the various relationships of the Smiley clan. There is an understandable abhorrence of the array of soon-forgotten dates and unknown ancestors which would be attached to a "family tree". In these pages perhaps it will be helpful to new guests to use Part II as a foundation and refer to those of the family who are now connected with Mohonk.



THE OLD MOUNTAIN REST HOUSE

Albert K. Smiley, the twin, and founder, had no children, but he often said that his young half brother, Daniel, and his wife, Effie, were like a son and daughter. Two of Daniel's sons, Albert K. and Francis G. Smiley, are senior members of the present partnership. Both their wives, Mabel Craven Smiley and Rachel Orcutt Smiley, have shared life at Mohonk for many years. Daniel's other son, Hugh Smiley, was active at Mohonk for about 12 years until 1922, when he moved on to other enterprises. Ruth Smiley Drake, only daughter of Daniel and Effie, helped with activities at Mohonk for a number of years prior to settling down in California in the year 1914.

Among the succeeding generation, Albert and Mabel Smiley have three children. Daniel and Albert Keith (Jr.) are active in the present partnership along with their wives, who are Virginia Viney Smiley, and Ruth Happel Smiley. Anna Craven Richardson, after a number of years of residence at Mohonk, now lives in California.

Among the two sons and two daughters of Francis G. and Rachel O. Smiley, the oldest son Gerow and his wife, Marion Bonnell Smiley, are now living at Mohonk, and Gerow is a partner in the Mohonk business. The other three children, Rachel Smiley Matteson, Francis Smiley, Jr., and Patricia Smiley Guralnik, continue their great interest in Mohonk affairs.

Daniel, Keith, and Gerow, as the younger partners, all have families, together adding up to five boys and three girls mostly of school and college age, as potential stewards of the property. It does not seem wise to burden our readers with more names. For those interested, a question to the respective parents or grand-parents will undoubtedly bring the desired information!*

The words of Daniel Smiley at the end of Part II regarding "human relationships" should be re-read. We can only add that the debt, and the appreciation, owed by members of the Smiley family to members of the staff, to guests, and to neighbors and friends continues to accumulate.

**As of the time of the 2nd printing of Fourth Edition, the family situation and places of residence have changed. This information awaits another edition, to be up-dated.*

The feelings of those who operate Mohonk are accurately expressed by these words of Albert Einstein:

"From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that man is here for the sake of other men—above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, Many times a day I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow-men, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received."

Influence of General Conditions on Operation

In terms of the influence of the world around us, Mohonk's story becomes less of a "simple chronicle" with each succeeding decade. Older members of the family occasionally dream of the return of "normal times", which meant such conditions as existed prior to the first world war and



MOUNTAIN REST HOUSE, 1920

before the coming of the automobile. Now the sound of jet planes overhead reminds us that we may soon be welcoming arrivals from some distant planet, and that it will be unlikely that the noise of horses' feet on the bridge by the lake will warn us to be on the platform to greet arriving guests, which was the "cue" often used by Albert Smiley in those earlier days.

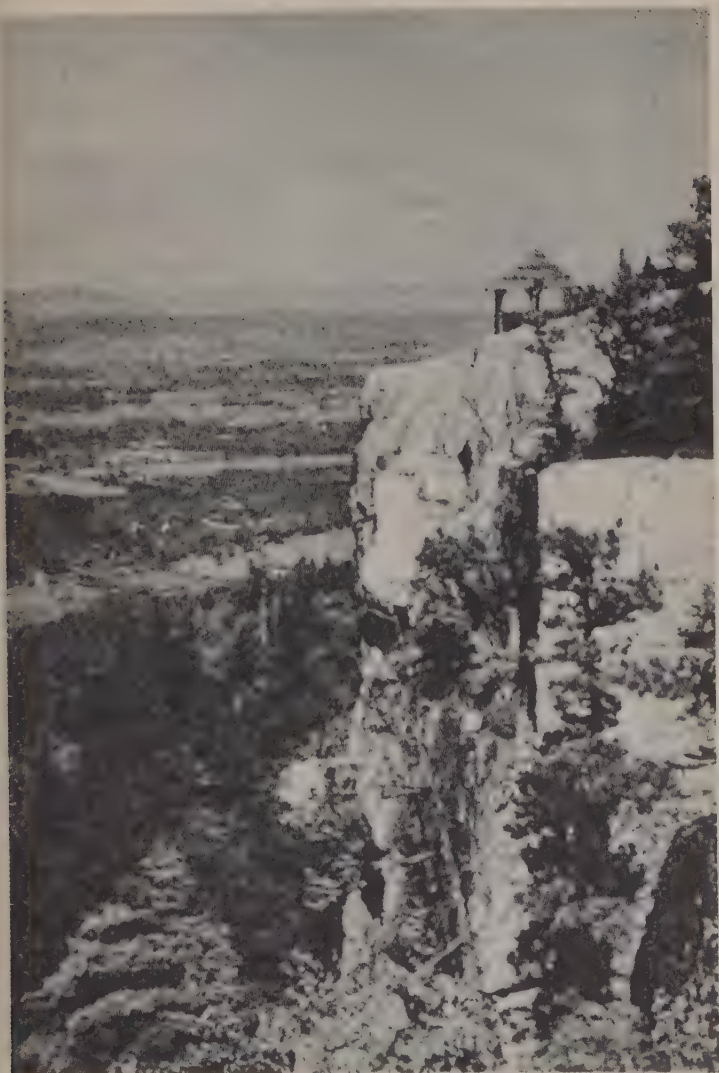
We have in our day all but forgotten that the first automobiles carrying invalid guests to the House by special permission were preceded by a man on horseback to warn carriages and pedestrians of approaching "danger". There is another dim memory of those transition days when men shovelled coal onto wagons when it was dumped on the ground at Mountain Rest, so that the noise of trucks that brought it would not penetrate the "serenity" around the main House. We remember a little more clearly those painful "budget-slashing" years of the nineteen-thirty depression, when men were happy to chop wood in exchange for board and one dollar per day. In

the short course of the following twenty years "the machine" has penetrated almost every area of Mohonk operation, both inside the House and around the property. Whether we look at the accounting "mechanism" in the bookkeeper's office, at the housekeeper's array of vacuum cleaners, the dishwashing unit in the kitchen, or at the man with the chain saw in the woods, we find a *machine*, and the attendant struggle to retain the "human touch" in employee or guest relationships. Perhaps the greatest contrast is found at the power plant, where the man with the strength to handle cordwood or shovel coal has acquired new skills and been transformed into the engineer who checks mechanical controls, while the fire is automatically fed with fuel oil.

It is clear that a service operation such as Mohonk cannot be mechanized after the manner of a factory, which is precisely what helps produce "no simple chronicle". We can only cite brief examples of the many compromises between cold efficiency in which much of the world around us

indulges and automatically presses upon us as "good economics", and the tradition of individual, personal, interested relationship which has been a hallmark of Mohonk. As an example, we may cite this process of evolution as it has affected the flower garden, long a cherished part of life and enjoyment for guests, employees, and the Smiley family. An increasing shortage of experienced seasonal gardeners, higher expenses, and the application of some machinery for cultivation, has necessitated new techniques in gardening, such as less special material in small beds, more use of mulches, and the elimination of certain plots requiring much hand work. In spite of these changes, it has been possible to retain the basic design of the garden, and it continues to be a source of delight for many persons every year.

General national and international conditions have had increasing influence on Mohonk. The usual paradoxes of recent American economic history were experienced. There was the depression with plentiful man power but little income



COPE'S LOOKOUT

to make use of it. There followed the second great war when Mohonk overflowed with guests and income, but with few men or supplies to make greatly needed and long overdue improvements. Then followed the last decade when inflation caused money to accomplish less, but when at least much has been done to improve the physical plant.

Such trends as the tendency to use more rapid transportation to spend weekends and brief vacations in the country, and the increase in leisure, has had significant influence on Mohonk operation. In 1933 when the Mohonk boys' school was feeling severely the influence of the depression, a small-scale and informal winter business was started to help add to the activity during the quiet times of year. This new operation increased to the point where it was not only impractical to heat more of the building in winter, but also the spring and fall business was such that management of both educational and resort activities became more difficult, with conflicts in need of

space. Finally the Mohonk School was moved to the Cragsmoor Inn in 1958 and continues there under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Lafferty, former principals at Mohonk.

During the winter of 1958-59 the House was closed for guests while a large part of the Grove section was renovated before being re-opened for the spring season. Since then, that part of the building has again been open for guests on an informal basis from before New Years Day until late February.

It is only natural that one of the most changed aspects of Mohonk results from the general "revolution" in means of travel. The full account of the history of the Mohonk transportation department would leave no space in this volume for other reports. In general we can say that changes have been made and are still being made, with two objectives—to retain the quiet atmosphere which guests cherish, and to meet the needs of changing habits of travel. Visitors who have not been here for some years occasionally



SCHOOL HOCKEY RINK AND HOUSE IN WINTER

ask whether it is still necessary to take a carriage from Mountain Rest. This service was discontinued some years ago, but carriages are still available at the House for excursions. Most private cars are driven from the Mountain Rest transfer to the House by Mohonk drivers or trail a Mohonk vehicle. Those coming for the day transfer to Mohonk busses and cover the last two scenic miles with full opportunity to enjoy the view rather than watch the narrow road.*

Space only permits mention of a few trends in public transportation which affect Mohonk. Gone are the days when the Pennsylvania Railroad sold a strip of tickets for the Philadelphia to Mohonk journey, including a coupon covering the carriage ride from New Paltz to the House. Almost gone are the days when guests not having a car came by train to Poughkeepsie on the New York Central, or by Hudson River Day Line, and thence by car to Mohonk. Many will remember that their first anticipation of the Mohonk holiday was looking forward, during the trip up

**Transportation arrangements frequently change. This information should be treated as historical only.*

the Hudson, to the friendly greeting of the Mohonk agent in Poughkeepsie. Now, fast busses plying the Thruway reduce the trip to a "commuter's ride" from New York, and we anticipate the time when an airfield will be necessary to accommodate guests arriving in their own planes or helicopters.

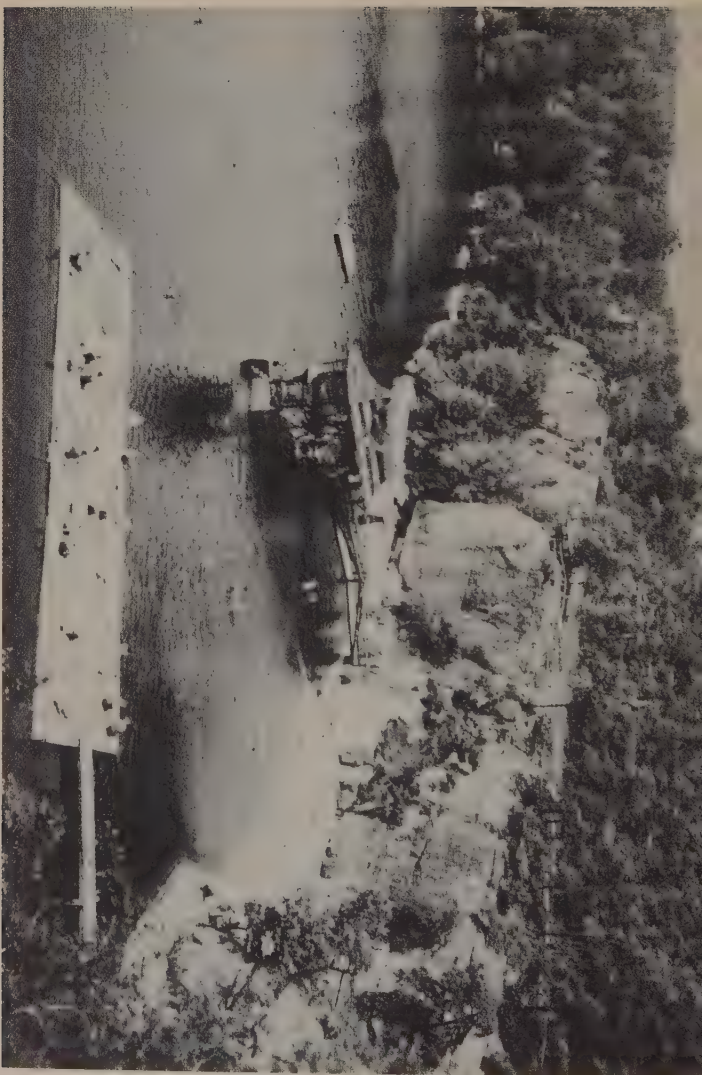
Physical Changes Guest Facilities and Programs

When *The Story of Mohonk, Part Two*, was written, the Chronology which appears in the back of this volume was added as a means of making the text a *simpler* chronicle. Many items have been added to this list in the present edition. The chronology not only has proven to be valuable reference material, but also serves to remove long listings of dates and physical changes from our story.

Many of the additions and replacements in the area of grounds and buildings are important,

but are in some cases improvements which one would expect to be necessary for satisfactory operation of a plant which is over sixty years old. However, a few peculiarly significant physical changes affecting guests are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

Alterations in facilities at the power plant are touched upon elsewhere in connection with mechanization. The chronology shows that Mohonk first had electric lights in 1893 and that the present power plant dates from 1901. Ever since that time direct current electricity has been supplied from this plant by steam engines operating generators. In the year 1958 an alternating current power line was built up the mountain, with connection to the facilities of the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation. Within the near future complete rewiring and other arrangements for the use of this new supply should be an accomplished fact. This is an important piece of history-in-the-making, with far-reaching effects in the use of appliances, as well as economies at the



THE SUN FLOAT AND BATHING BEACH, 1956

power plant, which will continue to supply hot water and heat.

Other significant accomplishments which should be mentioned because they reflect trends in recreation and guest activity are the building of a large sun-bathing float at the Bathing Beach in 1960, the inauguration of lawn bowling in 1940, and of shuffleboard in 1948. Also three Mohonk-sponsored holidays—a week of programs for Garden enthusiasts started in 1940, a photographers' weekend beginning in 1958, and a week of nature study inaugurated in 1961, have added other types of special use of the grounds, paralleling the development of the Mohonk Trail Riders groups, and the hikers' outings, both initiated in the early nineteen-thirties.

The list of improvements encompassed in the Chronology is long and varied. We could refer to automatic sprinkler protection, a complete pasteurizing plant for processing Mohonk farms milk, or a new boat wharf produced from native lumber. But these are merely evidences that the

"corruptions" of "moth and rust" are being met. More important perhaps are real changes in function, such as has overtaken the Bowling Alley building near the putting green, built in 1876 and initially called the "bowling saloon". This seems a bit incongruous for Mohonk nomenclature, but many guests will remember the popular bowling tournaments and the names of those achieving high scores appearing on the white inside walls.

In the winter of 1960 the interior of this building was taken out, because bowling on the old alleys suffered by contrast with modern equipment, and a convenient gathering place was needed for the increasing number of groups and conferences which find Mohonk a good place for serious discussion. Now this old but very sturdy structure takes a new lease on life, and bears a new name, The Council House. Business and humanitarian groups that have already met there testify to its well-planned usefulness as a setting for the sharing of ideas.

Mr. Partington refers to the "forenoon tours" led by Albert Smiley. The tradition of walks conducted by members of the family has continued. Caving expeditions, long hikes, short strolls, garden tours, and nature walks have all been part of the program, and have served to add to the enjoyment of the place, as well as to treasured personal acquaintance between succeeding generations of the family and a host of regular guests.

The Property and Its Uses

If guests who pride themselves on long familiarity with Mohonk could walk or ride beyond the area immediately surrounding the House, at a number of different times of year, we are sure even they would be amazed at what they did not know about present-day Mohonk. Some would be interested in the number of our neighbors who enjoy the golf course or hike on the trails. In the late autumn they might enjoy a ride with the hunting patrolman in his truck while he checks on the activities of the many



THE "OLD BOYS"

hunters to whom Mohonk permits are issued. On spring or autumn weekends they could watch large groups of rock climbers following their favorite routes on the Trapps or Sky Top cliffs. At almost any time of year, including the dead of winter, they might discover a party of campers enjoying the old Log Cabin on Mossy Brook Road, or some other approved campsite. Groups of Boy Scouts studying wild life or geology, and natural history clubs and members of hiking organizations would be met on many occasions, as they explore and enjoy the wild areas of the Mohonk property.

Not only have there been much greater and increasingly varied recreational uses of our mountains during the last twenty or thirty years, but also practical land use in areas where the topography is suitable has been an equally great concern. It is recognized that some areas are needed for sports and recreation; it is also important that much land be left as nearly as possible in its natural state, because of its rugged

beauty and on account of the very important need to preserve large stretches where people can quietly enjoy a "closeness" to the natural world; but there are other parts of the property where the traditional interests of the family in farming and forestry may be developed to the full.

In the case of Mohonk's farming and forestry, the word "traditional" should not be mis-interpreted. It refers to the motivation and not to methods used. For the practices of crop culture, of handling of stock, and of silviculture, follow the most up-to-date techniques. Space does not permit a complete listing of accomplishments, but trends are suggested in the following paragraphs.

Mohonk forestry goes back almost to the beginning of scientific forest management in the United States. Albert Smiley's concern to increase people's appreciation of natural beauty led to Mohonk's pioneer work in what the profession now calls "aesthetic forestry". Through the years there has ever been the desire to manage our

woodlands so as to attain more than one benefit, while making use of the latest forestry techniques. Along roads and trails the cutting of "views" has always been under the direct supervision of the family. Here "frames" for distant views, gnarled trunks, laurel, colorful foliage and aesthetically pleasing "natural landscaping" receive detailed consideration. In less accessible wooded areas the emphasis has been on sustained yield harvesting of such diverse products as choice red oak for furniture in the Mountain House (made in our own shops), plank for road bridges, Christmas trees, wood for fireplaces (and during the depression years to provide the entire fuel supply of the power plant), poles for road railings, red cedar posts for farm fences, and ash logs to sell for baseball bats.

The chief purpose of the Mohonk farms has been to supply a high quality of milk for the Mohonk table, while realizing some return from the large parcel of land which is held as a playground for Mohonk guests, and a protection



THE HISTORIC PARLOR



THE NEW PARLOR

from the inroads of civilization. In addition to this, there has been a varying need for other farm produce, such as hay for the horses which are an important part of Mohonk transportation.

In recent years it has been quite a struggle to pare down the work force and consolidate the farming operation to a degree that makes it economically feasible to continue. The dispersion of the many fields that constitute the Mohonk farms made it an inefficient unit to operate—especially in the machine age. Today there is a crew of five men accomplishing the result that required the efforts of ten or twelve men not so many years ago. It is true that the cultivated acreage has been reduced, but the production per acre has increased to a level that gives us nearly the same yield.

One of the moves in the direction of consolidation was to confine our crop farming to a few acres of land best suited to machine operation and close to our farm headquarters at Brook Farm. Here corn and oats are grown on a two

year rotation, with a legume crop plowed under every second year to help maintain fertility of the soil. This system does away with the necessity for moving heavy machinery long distances to the fields, and often back and forth across the mountain several times each season, as was done in the past.

Spring Farm on the west side of the mountain is no longer used as a part of the cultivated area, but it is the summer "headquarters" for young cattle or "dry" cows which are pastured in the surrounding area. It also offers a bit of choice scenery for those who get to the outlying parts of the property.

Thus we see that the story of the uses of the Mohonk property becomes an *exciting* and *expanding* chronicle. As suburbia creeps farther out from New York City, and as population and houses increase in the surrounding valleys, the Shawangunk mountain area takes on many aspects of a convenient public park, even though it is restricted in some aspects of its use. As yet

the law makers and the tax authorities have not been as quick as the public to sharpen their definitions of privately owned land in accordance with how the land is used. We trust that in due course these public officials will discriminate between an estate shut off from general use by an iron fence, and a property which provides recreation for thousands of persons every year. For in practice, if not in the law books, the property is like an oasis for many people—"The shadow of a great rock in a weary land".

Inspiring New Hopes for the Intercourse of Men

Mr. Partington in Part I of this book says that it is "the spirit of the place that ultimately distinguishes it from all others". With this remark many Mohonk visitors will continue to agree. As the writer of part one has phrased it, what has been reviewed thus far in Part III is "only the setting" for the nurture of movements "to



BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS AND WIVES, 1923

foster new ideals of human obligations, and to inspire new hopes for the intercourse of men”.

Though many worthwhile meetings have been held here since the discontinuance of the Arbitration Conferences before the first World War, and since the last conference on Indian Affairs in 1929, we have the hope that this part of our story is very largely an *unfinished* chronicle. Hence, the next few pages are not only intended to recount a few “things done” in the realm of better “intercourse of men”, but we hope these words will also be evidence of faith in potential usefulness.

It is not entirely in its group meetings that Mohonk has instilled “new hopes”. There continues to be in more recent years the same emphasis as in the past on a balanced fare that fills the need of body, mind, and soul. Thus individuals frequently find new inspiration through these channels, whether it be in natural beauty, in the resources of the library, or in a prayer service. The cultural values of excellent music by talented

artists, and the variety of interesting lectures, continue to be important parts of the program of events. It also seems important that we re-emphasize here the church services to which Part II of our story refers. Would that space might permit a complete list of those who have contributed without measure by conducting those religious services and in other ways. The names of such good friends as Bishop Herbert Welch, Rufus M. Jones, Charles E. Jefferson, John R. Mott, and many more, would be added to those mentioned in the earlier editions.

With respect to the intercourse of men, it would require considerable space merely to list the number of meetings and conferences held here in the last 30 or 40 years. A recent count indicates that there have been over 100 different YMCA conferences alone, including local, state, and national groups, as well as fourteen meetings of the International Committee.

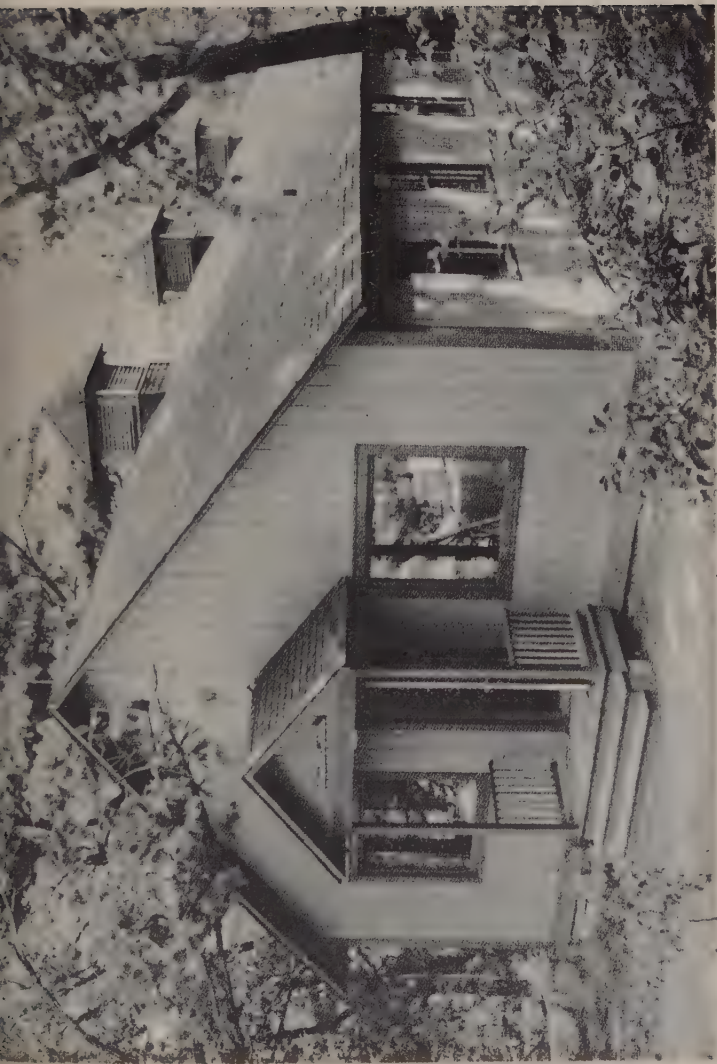
When one of the meetings of the Layman's Foreign Mission Inquiry was held here in 1932



SKY TOP FROM EAGLE CLIFF

a number of old acquaintanceships were renewed, with such men as John R. Mott, Rufus M. Jones, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who was able to walk to Eagle Cliff and enjoy his favorite Mohonk view from Huntington Lookout. During the years immediately following, the Hazen Foundation met here on several occasions to discuss plans for its well known series of religious books. In September 1938—and several succeeding autumns, the New York State Library Association convened annual sessions at Mohonk, when both books and librarians almost overflowed from the balconies of the Mountain House!

Following the war years of the early forties the Conference on Science, Philosophy, and Religion began to meet regularly at Mohonk and has continued to the present time. The larger affiliated group, the Institute on Ethics, has combined with the former one on several occasions and brought many distinguished scientists and scholars to the mountain. Business conferences have been held for training purposes, and for



THE COUNCIL HOUSE (BOWLING ALLEY 1876 TO 1959)

planning. One of a number of meetings of American Telephone and Telegraph Company executives included basic planning for the first telephone cable to be laid across the Atlantic Ocean. This, indeed, was a practical application of Mr. Partington's concern for the intercourse of men!

Special reference should be made to three important conferences held here within the past ten years. In late April and early May, 1956, several hundred persons gathered in the Mohonk Parlor and said, as reported later in their publications: "We stand together in the dawn of a new day. We stand together because on our planet it is no longer possible to stand apart from one another". This group consisted of "Christians, drawn from all corners of the earth, assembled in a World Consultation called in 1956 at Lake Mohonk, New York, by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church . . . ". The consultation reviewed the whole concept of mission work and laid a new plan of action.

In the late autumn of 1958 the Coordinating Committee on Peace of the Religious Society of Friends arranged a Disarmament Conference at Mohonk, attended by about a hundred members of Friends Meetings located in the northeastern Atlantic States. In May of 1959, the first conference for Diplomats from the United Nations and from Washington to be held in this country was convened at Mohonk under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee. Each of these three recent gatherings, as an attempt to improve the intercourse of men, would have been especially pleasing to Mohonk's founder.

In closing this part of our chronicle, so largely unfinished, perhaps it is fitting to quote one expression of aims for Mohonk, from a speech by Albert Smiley, its founder, at the celebration of his fiftieth wedding anniversary: "I trust that many generations of men will . . . find on the height not only a well ordered hostelry, but more—a home where warmest greetings will be extended and friendships cultivated; still more



THE MEMORIAL TOWER, 1923

that eminent men shall meet here to discuss great national and international questions that pertain to the betterment of the world; and above all that the Omnipotent Creator, whose tender compassion notices a sparrow's fall, may be fitly revered by both hosts and guests . . . ”.



THE CHRONOLOGY OF MOHONK

THE CHRONOLOGY OF MOHONK

- 1869 Mohonk Lake first visited by Alfred H. Smiley
Original 300 acres bought by Albert K. Smiley
- 1870 The House opened for its first season June 1st
Old Stage Road built
Lake Shore Road
Wallkill Valley Railroad finished to New
Paltz
- 1871 Alfred H. Smiley joined his brother
Newlin's Cave discovered
Labyrinth Path marked
Gate of the Winds discovered
House enlarged
- 1872 Eagle Cliff Road
Woodland Drive
Wooden tower at Sky Top erected
- 1873 Telegraph office installed
- 1874 Undercliff Path built
"First" Dining Room Building built
(became Garden Wing in 1893)
- 1875 Lake stocked with Black Bass
Ice house and laundry enlarged
- 1876 Bowling "saloon" with four alleys built
- 1878 Lake Mohonk Telegraph Company, Inc.

CHRONOLOGY

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- 1879 Albert K. Smiley appointed to Board of Indian
 Commissioners by President Hayes
 Alfred H. Smiley first opened the Lake Minne-
 waska House
 Rock Building constructed
 Old Minnewaska Road
- 1880 Daniel Smiley became Manager
 Eagle Cliff Tower built
 Rock Building in use
- 1881 First Office Building erected
 Huguenot Drive
 Sky Top Road rebuilt
- 1882 Post Office established at Mohonk
 Second Sky Top observatory in use
 Forest Drive
 Guyot's Hill Road
 Bonticou Road started
 Cedar Drive
- 1883 First Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of
 the Indians called
 "Second" Stage Route to New Paltz built
 Electric call bell system installed in 165 guest
 rooms
 Prospect Drive, now Piney Woods
 Livery stable built in present garden

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- 1883 Two lawn tennis "grounds" built, west of
Grove Building
- 1885 Mountain Rest Boarding House opened
Cope's Lookout Road
Oak Cottage Built
- 1886 Mossy Brook Road
Rock Rift Road
Gulf Road (1898 became part of Oakwood)
Pine Hill Road
- 1887-88 Old Parlor torn down
Central Building built
- 1888 Flower Garden greatly enlarged
Humpty Dumpty Road
Bust of Sagonaquado presented by the Lake
Mohonk Conference of Friends of the
Indian
Old stables, near bowling alleys, demolished
New stables built, stalls for 120 horses
- 1889 Old Picnic Lodge opened
- 1890 1st Conference to Consider the Education and
Christianization of the Negro
- 1891 J. Irving Goddard became manager of the
Mountain Rest House
North Lookout Road
The Morrill Press started printing Mohonk's
Booklets

- 1891-92 Grove Building erected
- 1893 Grove Building used
Present Kitchen and Dining Room first used
Electric lights installed, machinery in former
ice house
Small Reservoir built and water works system
in use
First Hydraulic elevator installed
Steam heat in halls
- 1895 Conference on International Arbitration held
its first meeting in June
Sky Top Road rebuilt
Bonticou Drive extended
Ladies' Bath House built
Large Reservoir built for fire protection
- 1896 Cooperative Weather Observer station estab-
lished at Mohonk
Eagle Cliff Road rebuilt
- 1897 Golf "Grounds" laid out (9 holes)
Dairy cows moved from Mountain Rest to
Spring Farm
Mountain Rest House doubled in size
- 1898 First Stone Building erected
Oakwood Drive
Garden Road (originally called Bicycle Road)

CHRONOLOGY

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- 1898 First private bathrooms installed
- 1899 Long Office and Lake Reading Room demolished
- 1900 Stone Building erected
Laurel Ledge Road
First Pyrotechnic display for Fourth of July Celebration
Second Hydraulic elevator installed
Beeches, Birches, and Maples houses built in Cottage Grove
- 1900-01 Present Office and new Parlor built
- 1901 Bonticou Road Extension finished
Present power plant built
- 1901-02 Fireproof Building constructed
Garden Wing torn down
- 1902 Cedars and Lindens houses built in Cottage Grove
Long Distance Telephone service inaugurated
Bugle replaced the old Office Building bell, to announce meals and entertainments
Fountain erected in memory of the "Garden Wing"
- 1903 Undercliff Road
Terrace Drive
Golf Club House built at Mountain Rest
Artists Lodge Studio built

- 1903 Elms house built in Cottage Grove
- 1904 Spring Path
Bonticou Road extension
North Lookout Road
Indian Conference became the Lake Mohonk
Conference of Friends of the Indian
and other Dependent Peoples
Parlor Clock presented to Mr. and Mrs. Albert
K. Smiley by members of the 10th Lake
Mohonk Conference on International
Arbitration
Mohonk Spring House dedicated in August
- 1905 Greenhouse built
Athletic Field first used
Piney Woods Drive (replaced part of Pro-
spect Drive)
- 1906 Hemlocks dormitory addition
Sundial presented by Mr. and Mrs. James P.
Burrell
- 1907 "Golden Day" Celebration for Mr. and Mrs.
A. K. Smiley with Ground Breaking
for Gateway
Present Picnic Lodge opened
The Laurels built
Minnewaska Road
Lumber shed built

- 1907 Cedar Drive completed
Mountain Rest House destroyed by fire
- 1908 Testimonial Gateway dedicated, on
October 14th
"Third" Stage Road to New Paltz built
Kleinekill Lake built
Stone crusher operation started
Mohonk Hose Company No. 1 founded
- 1909 Sky Top Tower burned June 1st
Stable extension completed
- 1910 Dining Room Circle extension erected
New Tennis Courts built
First Putting Contests
Lake restocked with Black Bass
- 1911 The Story of Mohonk written by Frederick E.
Partington
Golf Course lengthened and layout improved
Main Kitchen extension built
Kleinekill Lake developed
- 1912 Kleinekill Farm House built
Croquet Court
Albert K. Smiley died at the age of eighty-four
Daniel Smiley became proprietor
Mohonk Weekly Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 1,
May 11, 1912
- 1913 Mrs. Albert K. Smiley died

- 1913 Mohonk employees' baseball team organized
- 1914 First employee baseball games with outside teams
- 1915 Choralcelo presented by members of the Conferences, September 25th
- 1916 Motion pictures, first shown on June 5th outdoors
Automobiles first used at Mohonk, a Ford and two Overlands
Both Arbitration and Indian Conferences discontinued because of war conditions
- 1917 Motor Trucks first used
Summerhouses numbered, 157
Radiators in every room, last Franklin Stove removed
- 1918 Fireproof Garage at Mountain Rest first used
Mohonk "Country Fair" first held, August 6th, for benefit of French War Relief
- 1919 Tablet commemorating the Golden Anniversary of the opening of the House presented to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smiley by Mr. and Mrs. James P. Burrell
Bungalow colony started at Mountain Rest
- 1920 Fiftieth Anniversary Ceremony June 1st
Mohonk School founded
Lake stocked with Trout

- 1920 Game Refuge posted
- 1921 Corner Stone of Albert K. Smiley Memorial
 Tower laid August 30th
- First Lake Mohonk Tennis Club Tournament
- Mountain Rest Farm House opened
- Accommodations available in winter for the
 first time, in connection with the Mo-
 honk School
- 1923 Dedication ceremony of Memorial Tower
 August 30th
- 1925 Golf Course extended to 18 holes
- Lenape Lane completed
- 1926 Sky Top Reservoir finished, for fire protection
- Mossy Brook Spring water pumped to the
 House
- Bathing Beach enlarged and improved
- 1929 First Indian Conference after World War I
- Overcliff Road
- 1930 Death of Daniel Smiley at the age of seventy-
 four
- Smiley Brothers became proprietors
- 1931 Log Cabin repaired (originally built about
 1771)
- Automatic Sprinklers installed in the Kitchen
 and Dining Room Building

- 1932 The Story of Mohonk republished, containing Part Two, 1911-1931
Automatic Sprinklers installed in Grove Building
First Mohonk Trail Riders Saddle Trip in October
- 1933 First Hiking Trip of the Shongum Outing Club in September
- 1933-34 Part of Mohonk House first kept open for guests during the winter
- 1933-45 Substantial amounts of cordwood burned in power plant instead of coal
- 1935 Perch Cottage at Mountain Rest burned and rebuilt
First rock climbing activity on Trapps Cliffs
- 1936 Automatic Sprinklers installed in Central Building
The 42nd annual Mohonk Booklet printed by the Morrill Press
- 1937 Automatic Sprinklers installed in Old Stone Building
The Mohonk School changed from college preparatory to a junior school
- 1940 Lawn Bowling Green built and first used
West Pines built

- 40 Mohonk's woodland put under management
of a full time forester
- Cruikshank Shelter constructed at golf course
- Huckleberry Cottage built
- 41 Oakwoods Cottage at Mountain Rest construct-
ed
- 42 Last trips of Mohonk Trail Riders
- 43 Last burning of open charcoal pit in Trapps
by Irving Van Leuven
- 45 Fire engine acquired for the Mohonk Hose
Company
- 46 The Willows, The Whitewoods and Garden
Cottage built
- 47 Power House enlarged for a new boiler
- Hay bailer first used on Mohonk Farms
- 48 Mountain Rest Tea House Kitchen enlarged
- Shuffleboard Court built
- 49 Shorthorn milk cows moved to a rebuilt "pen
stable"
- Automatic Sprinklers installed in Parlor Wing
- 50 Automatic Sprinklers installed in Rock Build-
ing
- Reprinting of The Story of Mohonk with addi-
tions to the Chronology and lists of
Fauna and Flora

- 1951 Milk pasteurization plant installed at the
House
- 1951 Death of Effie F. Smiley
- 1952 Topographic chart of lake bottom made
Automatic Sprinklers installed in halls of New
Stone Building
- 1953 Incorporation of Mohonk land and buildings
Enlarged Smiley Brothers partnership
- 1953 Second Oakwoods Cottage built at Mountain
Rest
Electric Power first supplied to Mountain Res
by Central Hudson Gas and Electric
Corporation
- 1954 New boat wharf constructed
Part of old boat wharf installed as sun floa
at Bathing Beach
- 1955 First use of fuel oil in Mohonk power plan
Large walk-in freezer constructed in basemen
of Kitchen Building
Diesel engine stand-by unit installed
- 1956 Complete renovation of guest kitchen
- 1957 Two new shuffleboard courts constructed near
Athletic Field
- 1958 Camping permit system established
Improved service and equipment arrangements
with N. Y. Telephone Company

- 1958 New private bathrooms installed in Old Stone Building
- First alternating current used at Mohonk supplied by Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation
- 1958-59 Renovation of three floors of Grove Section
- 1959 Water bicycles first used on Lake
- 1959-60 Renovation of top floor of Grove Section
- 1960 New sun float at Bathing Beach
- Electric carriage first used for sight-seeing on Mohonk drives
- New circulating hot water system installed in main house
- Enlarged parking facilities at Mountain Rest
- Bowling Alley at north end of lake rebuilt for meeting hall and renamed The Council House
- New grass tees on Mountain Rest Golf Course
- 1960-61 New hiking trails laid out and marked for longer hikes on property
- New roof of redwood shakes on Office Building
- 1961 New electric freight elevator for kitchens and storage rooms
- Renovation started in Stone Building

